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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PALESTINE LIBERATION FRONT SECRETARY LAUDS SYRIA

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 20 Jan 81 p 9

[Article by Khalid Salam: "Syria's Internal and National Position Explains the Enmity of Reactionaries and Conspirators"]

[Text] Comrade Tal'at Ya'qub stated that the Syrian military bombardment of enemy concentrations on Lebanese soil has given a new push to Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese relations in confronting the conspiracy.

The secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front called for the assumption of a qualitative step on the level of Palestinian national unity. He said that Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement had to stand up and arrange joint programs to make these conspiracies fail.

He asked why, at this time specifically, local reaction - as represented by the Moslem Brothers, supported by Arab reaction - was active. He stressed that reactionary enmity came as a response to Syria's progressive domestic and national position.

Last year was a year of flaming combat between the Palestinian revolution and the Zionist enemy, and there is no doubt that the group of achievements and triumphs which the Palestinian revolution achieved were the result of the perseverance of the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories and the resistance of the Palestinian rifle through reliance on the strategic national heartland embodied in Syria and the Lebanese national movement.

[Question] Could we specify the most prominent tasks laid out before the revolution during the year?

[Answer] I believe that during this stage in which imperialist attacks on the international national liberation movement in general, and the Arab national liberation movement and the Palestinian revolution in particular, are intensifying, it is necessary to stand before the tasks which this harsh stage imposes, which is characterized by this vicious imperialist attack. We, as a Palestinian revolution, cannot separate our struggle and our tasks from the struggle and tasks of the Arab national liberation movement in general. Since imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction are essentially placing attacking the Palestinian revolution and seeking to liquidate it at the top of their program, and this scheme involves the Lebanese national movement

and Syria by clashing with them, creating problems and vexations for the progressive regime in Syria, and provoking the historic agents as represented by the Moslem Brothers specifically imperialism is aiming in this stage at the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese national movement, and Syria. All this has been accompanied by the launching of a vicious attack against the progressive democratic forces in the Arab nation. Therefore we in the Palestinian revolution find a large group of urgent tasks in front of us on the threshold of the new years, some of which might be a continuation of previous tasks, but I would like to stress them.

Heading our tasks in the new year is the need to assume a qualitative step on the level of Palestinian national unity, a step which is more advanced than previous ones. We, as one of the vital detachments in the Palestinian revolution, believe that it is necessary to convene the Palestinian National Council to study all the new political conditions in the Palestinian, Arab and international contexts. Here I am anxious to record, in a democratic spirit, that we are in favor of the political program approved at the previous session of the National Congress and we will struggle for it and with it, in spite of our previous and subsequent reservations over dialogue with the Jordanian regime, since that dialogue, in its present form, serves the Jordanian regime but does not serve the Palestine Liberation Organization in any way in the current balance of forces. We stress that it is necessary to implement the organizational program also approved in the previous session; this stipulates that all detachments of the revolution are to be represented in the Palestine Liberation Organization, from the Executive Committee down to all our military organizations. In the new year as well it will be necessary to give great, exceptional importance to the struggles of the masses of our people in the occupied nation, struggles which our people are expressing every day through demonstrations, upheavals and their martyrs - thanks to whom we as a revolution and a people have managed to stand decisively before the autonomy conspiracy and bring it into its fatal dilemma, the conspiracy to separate the land from the people.

Therefore we claim that is necessary to support our masses inside the occupied nation by every means and resource, in the desire to enable them to intensify and escalate their struggles against the Zionist enemy, in conjunction with our armed struggle and the escalation of military activity against the enemy along all borders adjacent to Palestine. This legitimate right is one of the rights for which we are fighting, with emphasis on the Jordanian borders because of the dense presence of our people in Jordan and the length of the borders between Palestine and Jordan: we must engage in constant daily military activity against the enemy with the goal of exhausting him, making him submit, and seizing our rights from him in full through the force of the gun.

It is necessary to achieve a stronger, deeper alliance with the Lebanese masses and their legitimate representative, the Lebanese national movement, masses and a movement which have continuously embraced us and defended our rights to exist on the Lebanese stage. Therefore we consider that it is necessary to set out detailed programs for daily activity and not just meet on occasions -- programs on the means for standing up to the conspiracy which has the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement as its target by falsifying the excesses committed by occasional combatants against the Lebanese masses, since hostile forces are trying to exploit the slightest excesses and portray them as aggressions against Lebanese citizens we stress that we

as a revolution cannot live without our masses in Lebanon in particular and our Arab masses in general.

Syria also has its share of imperialist Zionist attacks and Arab and local reactionary attacks which are aimed at the progressive national regime in Syria by virtue of the fact that it is standing in a single trench with the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement.

Therefore it is necessary that the three parties - the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese national movement, and Syria - stand in the framework of a joint program to thwart all conspiracies. Here I stress that we appreciate the latest Syrian military response to the Zionist enemy and the forces of the agent Sa'd Haddad in southern Lebanon, we stress that this step has given a new impetus to our relations in confronting the conspiracy, and we believe that it is necessary to consolidate our efforts to stand up decisively to imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots in the area.

Imperialism has given Arab reactionaries the green light to launch their attack against all democratic and progressive forces, exploiting the concentrated American military presence in the region. Therefore it is necessary that all battalions of the Arab national liberation movement shift to a direct attack against these reactionaries and this imperialist military presence in the area. It is necessary that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman escalate the attack on the puppet regime of Qabus, it is necessary that the Jordanian national movement escalate its attack against the treasonous regime in Amman, and it is in general necessary that all detachments of the Arab national liberation movement escalate their attack against the reactionary axis on grounds that these forces are now aiming more than at any time in the past at a new attack. Here we hasten to state that we as detachments of the Arab national liberation movement must hasten to rally all our powers and efforts to establish the broad progressive national popular front this year and set forth a single unified program to repel the conspiracy which is aimed at us all. We consider that the coming battle will be the battle for existence between us and the hostile Zionist imperialist reactionary camp. The reactionary Arab camp has started to crystallize itself, unite its forces, and deepen its alliances with imperialism in order to carry out the attack, and therefore we consider that the progressive regimes in the Perseverance and Steadfastness Front must unite all their forces and efforts to face this attack.

At the head of our national tasks is merciless war against anyone trying to pre-empt the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people-and here I am referring precisely to the role the puppet Jordanian regime is trying to perform through its daily political movements in conjunction with Reagan's statements that "Jordan is needed for the negotiations" and al Sadat's statements on the establishment of a Palestinian statelet related to Jordan federally or in the sense of a confederation and linked in terms of security with the Zionist enemy, as well as the blessing Arab reaction is giving European movements.

Therefore it is necessary to struggle without quarter to thwart this conspiracy, which is trying to infringe on the unity of representation of the Palestinian people.

Just as we are struggling on behalf of achieving our Palestinian national unity, deepening our combative alliance with the Lebanese national movement and Syria and struggling to build the broad Arab progressive popular front, so must we implant and deepen our strategic alliance with the system of socialist countries, headed by our great friend the Soviet Union, and the democratic and progressive forces in the capitalist countries, so that they may be our voice among their peoples.

Without a doubt, this is our most conspicuous task as a Palestinian revolution, as we are entering a new year in the struggle for certain victory.

[Question] In the light of all these points and the tasks which we have talked about, we come to a conclusion, whose gist is that the central link in the Arab struggle in the up coming stage is to shift to offensive positions against imperialism, Zionism and reaction in the area, and this calls for the establishment of a progressive base of domestic, national and international alliances. The past year witnessed a group of important political achievements aimed at establishing this base. The treaty of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union and the Syria-Libyan unity project are two important steps on the road.

How do you evaluate these two achievements?

[Answer] The treaty of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union came at the most proper time, at a stage in which the imperialist attack on the Arab national liberation movement in general and against us as a Palestinian revolution in general were being intensified. The Syrian-Soviet treaty constitute a great, important step on the road to the establishment of advanced strategic Arab-Soviet relations, and we in the front and in the Palestinian revolution appreciate it in a very positive, excellent fashion. The treaty has been reached in extremely delicate circumstances and will be one of the basic elements supporting our struggle to confront the reactionary Zionist imperialist attack.

As for the Syrian-Libyan union plan, we consider it essential to achieve Syrian-Libyan union in this critical, delicate stage we are going through, and just like all Arab progressive nationalist forces we are struggling for comprehensive Arab unity.

The attainment of union between Syria and Libya will unify the efforts of the two countries and will increase the coherence of their position and their ability to repel the plot which is aimed at the Arab national liberation movement.

Achievement of such unity is one of our most conspicuous ambitions as a front and a Palestinian revolution, and we will devote all our efforts and resources to attaining it. We know that establishment of the unity state will be an effective element in our favor and in favor of our Palestinian revolution.

[Question] Some events in the region have taken a turn opposite to the qualitative shifts we have talked about; among them is the Iraqi-Iranian war which has depleted the powers and resources of the two people and the two countries.

In your estimation, what are the most conspicuous negative aspects of this war as far as the Arab-Zionist struggle goes?

Answer: We first as a Palestinian revolution state with full clarity that the Arabs, all Arabs, must consider that the first basic central cause in the Palestinian cause. Therefore we consider that all powers must be mobilized on behalf of Palestine and the Palestinian people. Second, we favor having the powers of our people in Iraq and the Iranian people mobilized on behalf of the clash with American imperialism, and we consider that American imperialism is the beneficiary from this war. Therefore it is necessary to mobilize the powers of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples to repel the imperialist plot which is aimed at the struggle of our Arab people in general and the struggle of the Iranian people who brought down the Shah and brought down the greatest fortress of imperialism in the region, and it is necessary that the rug be pulled out from under the feet of imperialism, which is trying to concentrate its military presence in the region under the slogans of the Iraqi-Iranian war. It is very unfortunate that the powers of the two peoples are being wasted on the battlefield at a time when the Palestinian cause is in strategic need of these powers. Therefore we consider it necessary to move for a cease fire at once and resolve all disputes, whatever their nature may be, by peaceful means which will preserve the powers and resources of the two countries and peoples for the basic, seminal battles.

/Question/ You have taken a clear, declared position on the subject of the convening of the Amman summit conference, a summit which some Arab reactionaries wanted and insisted on in order to deprive the Palestine Liberation Organization of its unique representation of the Palestinian people and also to attempt to blockade Syria and strike out at the deep relations between it and the Palestinian revolution.

How do you evaluate the conclusions of the Amman summit?

Answer: From the beginning, our position was against the convening of the Amman summit. A conference without the Palestine Liberation Organization is a conference of no value. A conference without Syria as a basic confrontation state is also of no value, and any Arab Conference whose focus of discussion is not the Palestinian cause, as a central cause of the Arabs, will be a conference of no benefit and one whose resolutions will have no significance. Most unfortunately, the Amman summit conference was ineffective because the Palestinian revolution, Syria and the parties of the Perseverance and Steadfastness Front did not attend. What the Amman summit considered necessary was to give King Husayn a role, while we in the Palestinian revolution are against giving the Jordanian regime any role or evolving that role so it may talk in the name of the Arabs and in the name of Palestine and the Palestine cause. Historically, we classify the Jordanian regime as a puppet which is dependent in its social structure and economic, social and military composition. In essence, this regime was established and formed parallel to the Zionist entity. This regime has been not just a tool for repressing the Jordanian people but also a tool for repression in the hands of imperialism against liberation movements in the Arab nation. King Husayn does not have the right to speak for the Arabs or for Palestine.

Our Arab masses have come to realize through their combative feelings, that any Arab conference attended by Qabus, Siad Barre and King Husayn cannot discuss the seminal issues of the Arabs or rise up to face the pressing national issues, headed by the Palestinian cause, but that their efforts will be directed toward ways of coordinating with American imperialism to suppress the struggle of our Arab masses.

/Question/ The grave role for which the Jordanian regime has been preparing itself in the coming chapter of the imperialist conspiracy in the region has been most palpably reaffirmed. The king and his regime have started awaiting the cavalcade of the imperialist plot, and this dictates that the Arabs persevere stand fast and really confront this regime and its role. What is your view?

Answer: As I said, the Jordanian regime is no longer restricted to suppressing the Jordanian masses and national movement -- rather, it is going beyond that, to repressive tasks in the context of the Arab nation and the region. In the face of this role of increasing gravity, we have raised the slogan that it is necessary to bring down this puppet regime and establish a democratic national regime on its ruins. The current regime constitutes a major obstacle, establishing a national democratic regime in Jordan is a central strategic permanent task in the context of the Arab and Palestinian struggle, and we cannot for one moment think that this regime can provide the most minor facilities for the Palestinian revolution, politically or militarily. Therefore we demand that the dialogue with this regime, from which King Husayn alone is benefiting, be stopped immediately, and we will fight not only against the Jordanian option and King Husayn but against anyone who strive to co-opt the Liberation Organization's role or presents himself as a partner or alternative to it.

/Question/ It has been established that the Arab reactionary axis was and still is behind the Moslem Brother gangs and the fascist wing of Arab reaction, and you have taken a clear, declared position on this matter. Is there anything new?

Answer: Before all else let us ask ourselves why, at this time specifically, local reaction, embodied in the Moslem Brothers and supported by the local reactionary classes, is in movement.

/Question/ What Arab reaction, in general, is supporting the Moslem Brothers in Syria?

Answer: We believe that the inspiration of this reactionary enmity is Syria's progressive domestic and national position on the process of standing up to imperialist conspiracies, at their forefront the Camp David conspiracy; when Syria takes these clear positions and translates them into everyday action it becomes natural that the Arab reactionary axis will support the Moslem Brothers with every military, political and financial form of support.

We stress that the movements of the gangs of brothers, and the fascist military wing of local reaction in its totality, are part of the reactionary Zionist imperialist attack which we talked about and said is aimed at the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese national movement and Syria. It is clear that the central goal of the gangs of brothers is to bring down the progressive regime in Syria and to get reactionary forces to take its place, so that the conspiracy scenario can thereby be implemented and the enemy can be secure with treacherous Arab regimes and secure Arab borders. However, according to our definite information, our brothers in Syria have dashed the dreams of the enemy by directing decisive, lethal blows against the gangs of brothers. Here it is necessary to point out that the military escalation against the Syrian forces operating in the context of the Arab deterrent forces in recent days, both on the part of the Zionist enemy and on the part of the separatist forces in Lebanon, lie within the scheme aimed at exhausting Syria and attempting to induce a retreat in its position. However, the Syrian response was clear and decisive.

[Question] What do you expect from the struggle with the enemy in the decade of the eighties?

[Answer] Historical inevitability is on the side of the movements of oppressed and fighting peoples, and the sign of the era is the triumph of peoples and their revolutionary movements. The more the imperialist onslaught stiffens, the greater and greater the rigidity of the liberation movements, the progressive regimes, and the system of the socialist countries intensifies in standing up to the imperialist attack. We believe that events and developments are proceeding in our favor as a revolution and the events of last year were all to our benefit. The revolution of the Iranian people triumphed, uprooting the most deep-seated bastion of imperialism in the region. The liberation movements in Africa and Asia realized tremendous gains. Progressive regimes managed to stand up to many imperialist and reactionary attacks and the awareness of the people in the region about the danger of the imperialist Zionist reactionary role increased. The past year also witnessed a bitter struggle between the Palestinian revolution and the Zionist enemy and we managed to cause all plots and military attacks aimed at ~~down~~ the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon to fail. If we rely on a comparison of ~~the~~ ~~events~~ with their results, then the events and data underline the possibility of the triumph of peoples, which corresponds to the logic and movement of history.

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PLO OFFICIAL DISCUSSES EUROPEAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS PALESTINIAN CAUSE

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Dec 80 p 17

[Interview with PLO Representative in Italy Nimr Hammad, conducted by Badi' Hasan]

[Text] For the first time a large number of ruling and opposition parties in the Italian parliament agree on a single issue: supporting the Palestinian cause through support for the PLO.

In Rome last week, the "Committee for Solidarity with the Palestinian People" made extensive contacts with political forces in order to present a petition to the Italian government calling for recognizing the PLO and officially inviting Yasir 'Arafat to visit Rome.

PLO Representative Nimr Hammad spoke to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM about Italian public opinion's attitude towards the cause, and outlined the government's official stand on the issue.

Mr Hammad spoke about the European initiative and the Venice Declaration, and said that official recognition of the PLO on the part of the nine European states is still a hazardous undertaking with America, even though this recognition actually exists, represented by the official contacts under way between the PLO and all the European countries. Here is the text of the interview.

[Question] What are the PLO's relations with the Italian government, and are there any contacts between the PLO and the Italian Foreign Ministry which would allow one to ascertain the nature of the Italian stand?

[Answer] The PLO's relations with the Italian government began in 1974. Since then, these relations have developed into unofficial meetings with government and Foreign Ministry officials. In the beginning, they wanted to keep the meetings secret, but then PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi was officially invited by the Italian Foreign Ministry in 1978. Negotiations between the two delegations were conducted in the Foreign Ministry building, the Palestinian delegation being represented by Dr Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajjani and his associates, in addition to Abu al-Luft. The Italian side included, in addition to Foreign Minister, director general of the ministry Malvacci, the ministry's official spokesman, the head of the Middle East section, the head of the cultural department, and the director of the minister's office. At this meeting, the framework for Palestinian-Italian relations was drawn up from the standpoint of organizing channels of communication,

whether through our Rome office or through the PLO's political department. Several issues pertaining to Palestinian entry and residence visas for those who have to live in Italy, particularly students, were also discussed.

Italian Aid to the PLO

[Question] Has the Italian government given any aid to the PLO?

[Answer] In 1975 the Italian government began offering a number of study grants to Palestinian students. This continued until 1979, at which time the Italian government stopped offering study grants to any country, replacing them with grants for technical training courses. Italy also gave several rescue vehicles, including one containing a complete operating room. Italy also assisted us in building a school in the al-Qasimiyah area of Lebanon.

The Italian Attitude Toward the Initiative

[Question] Let me go back to relations with the Italian government, especially the matter of the consultation with the government concerning the Italian stand vis-a-vis the initiative.

[Answer] I would like to make it clear that so far there has been no European initiative; what was issued in Venice was a declaration which in the final analysis expressed "a desire to reach a European initiative." Gaston Thorn's activities and visits with the PLO indicate merely that the initiative is still in the process of crystallization.

With respect to this matter, our contacts and relations with the Italian government have enabled us to ascertain the details of what might be agreed upon by the nine European states. As the saying goes, no Common Market country can do very much, if anything, by itself, whereas the entire group of nine states might be able to do something. And the Italian side is putting even this in its proper perspective.

After the Venice Declaration, the Common Market states reached agreements on the approximate points, and it is believed that the agreement on these points will be issued in the form of a new document. It appears that the results of the American elections and the extreme European circumspection will prevent the crystallization of this document, which presumably will be discussed by the Common Market ministers in their next meeting of 24 December.

Complementing Camp David or Surpassing It?

[Question] You went to the European parliament meeting in Strasburg last month. Does the European initiative complement the Camp David agreements, as its opponents say, or does it go beyond these agreements, as those who welcome it say?

[Answer] We agreed that there are no black or white definitions in policy, because policy is variable while interests are constant. We can say that Europe is part of the western alliance, and that its role in foreign policy is governed by America. But in 1973 Europe began a transition, from being a purely economic grouping to entering a phase of political coordination. The European parliament

has begun playing its part, in spite of its limitations, and the periodic meetings on all levels of government are indicative of Europe's following a more independent course, within the confines of its alliance with the United States. Therefore, from what I have heard from several Italian and European politicians during the years I have spent in Italy since 1974, I can say that expressions of independence are now being used much more than in the past, and also that Europe's different viewpoints with respect to the Middle East will be loudly proclaimed from more than one pulpit and by more than one political current. Therefore, we are mistaken if we believe that Europe would present an initiative which was a continuation of Camp David, because the Camp David parties feel that these agreements are regional peace agreements and that the door is open to negotiations with other parties, whereas the Europeans say that the Camp David agreements are a one-sided peace agreement between Egypt and Israel under the auspices of a third party, the United States, and that a wider framework and other agreements are therefore required. This, very simply, is what is felt by those who want to objectively view the idea of the as-yet uncrystallized European initiative, and the verdict is neither completely negative or completely positive--just as those who look at a half glass of water can say that the glass is either half empty or half full.

What Does the Venice Declaration Mean?

[Question] What ideas are presented in the Venice Declaration about the Palestinian cause, if any?

[Answer] Within the same spectrum, i.e. between black and white, there are other colors. I can say that it is impossible to ignore some of the expressions presented in the Venice Declaration about the Palestinian cause. The declaration contains the expression "the Palestinian people's right to self-determination," as well as "PLO participation." The declaration also includes the phrase "the need for withdrawal from the lands occupied in 1967." At the same time, the declaration fabricated expressions unlike those we, as Arabs and Palestinians use or would like. This is only natural for a group like the European community, which a few years ago was totally partial towards the Zionist enemy. Furthermore, the Jewish question, which was envisaged as totally insoluble in the "Day of Israel," first appeared in Europe. I would like to say something else to you--some of the technical policy committees of the European Economic Community are trying, in the Venice Declaration and even now, to explain the expressions contained in the Venice Declaration--to explain "the right to self-determination," as well as to give an idea of the mechanics of the solution; i.e. beginning with a withdrawal under the rule of law from the territories to be withdrawn from, in order to make room for the right to self-determination. But I don't want this to be understood as saying that everything is ready for the European initiative; to date, discussion among the nine states has concentrated on merging viewpoints and reaching a unified conception. In the course of this, there has been greater receptivity to recognizing the justice of the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Nine States and Recognition of the PLO

[Question] What about recognition of the PLO by the nine states?

[Answer] As far as I know, the nine states are offering several explanations for recognizing the organization, one of which is that the PLO is a revolution and not

a government. Another is that the Palestinian people's land is totally occupied, and therefore there is no Palestinian territorial sovereignty. But I personally believe that the nine states condone de facto recognition of the PLO. Otherwise, how do you explain the contacts between us and numerous statesmen from the European community on the government level--in fact, on the highest levels responsible for the foreign policy of the Common Market states? In the European states they feel that a big step like recognizing the PLO will mean a major dispute with the United States. And, whether they are incapable of taking this risk or whether they don't want to recognize the PLO, the important thing is the continuation of our political relations and contacts and our information activity with the democratic forces and governments of the nine states, so that their stands can be developed and a national character can be given to the defacto relations now in existence.

[Question] Is there anything definite about this matter in Italy?

[Answer] In Italy there is a committee for solidarity with the Palestinian people, which includes representatives from the various democratic parties. The honorary president of this committee is Christian Democratic Deputy Carlos Likinsali, who is also deputy minister of foreign trade. He has two vice presidents from the communist and socialist parties. Through several initiatives undertaken by this committee, a number of petitions have been presented to the Italian government stressing recognition of the PLO and calling for officially inviting General Commander Yasir 'Arafat to visit Italy. Just last week this committee contacted Italian political forces to prepare a new petition signed by a large number of party representatives and deputies.

This step is a significant indication of the mutual exchange taking place in Italian public opinion over solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle to determine their own destiny, return to their land, and build their own independent state.

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CSO: 4802

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

NPUG CALLS ON ALL ARABS TO TAKE PART IN PALESTINE REVOLUTION

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 8 Jan 81 p 19

[Text] Cairo, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM--Last night, the NPUG party celebrated the 16th anniversary of the beginning of the armed Palestinian revolution, at which Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, secretary general of the party, spoke. Several poems were recited, in which television entertainer Rasha Madinah, actress Muhsinah Tawfiq, 'Izzat Balba', and others participated. At the end of the celebration, which lasted some 4 hours, the party issued a statement in which it affirmed its appreciation of the sacrifices of the Palestinian people domestically and abroad, which are considered a price not only for the liberation of Palestine, but also for the liberation of the Arab nation. The party also sent a telegram to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestine Liberation Organization, on this great occasion.

This celebration, which considered the most auspicious in the history of the Arab people, was organized by the party's committee for the defense of Arab national culture. That committee is the one which was created just after Camp David and the imperialist-Zionist incursion, and which considers the Palestine revolution (which arose within and outside of the Palestinian territory) to represent the noblest kind of struggle for the defense of Arab national culture.

The Profound Significance

At the opening [of the celebration], Khalid Muhyi-al-Din spoke, saying, 'We celebrate today the firing of the first round in the armed struggle with the Zionist entity on 1 January 1965. The profound significance of that round is that, after 16 years, we see the Palestine revolution to have become a confirmed political and military reality in the Arab world and in the whole world. The armed struggle began outside of the occupied territory, and today the Palestine Liberation Organization is becoming active within it, being the sole legitimate representative [of the Palestinian people] in word and in deed, legitimately, among the Arab world, and worldwide. After the Camp David conspiracy, the imperialists and the Zionists who were with them could not find a single Palestinian who would consent to sit down with them at the ridiculous table of representation, which was entitled self-rule. The meaning of this is that the round which was fired in 1965 has become today a symbol of the tremendous political movement which represents the whole Palestinian people, both inside and outside of the occupied territory, and the imperialists and Zionists have encountered nothing but Palestinian

steadfastness, for the Palestinian people are determined, though they be killed or driven away. The Liberation Organization is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian struggle is beginning to comprehend all phases of life in order to create the Palestinian state to be under the leadership of the Liberation Organization. Any pretense to gain time is bound to fail with the Palestinians.

"It is the party which undertook the enterprise of the 'visit to Jerusalem', and today a broad front of the Egyptian people, which discovered for itself the sham and pretense of Camp David, is committed to it. Furthermore, the party put the Palestine issue at the head of its agenda at its first convention.

"Hence, and in Egypt today, this occasion will be celebrated only at this place, which considers the Palestine issue an Egyptian issue in the first degree. As for the propaganda that we have done much for the Arabs and for Palestine, we have done this for Egypt. Hence, we celebrate today this Palestinian struggle, celebrating an ideal whose meaning is that the armed and political struggle will continue until the Zionist goals in the Arab nation are liquidated."

The Text of the Telegram to Yasir 'Arafat

The telegram says, "The Egyptian citizens who are gathered at the headquarters of the NPUG party at the invitation of the committee for the defense of Arab national culture to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the beginning of the armed Palestinian revolution, send to you, to the leaders of the Liberation Organization, and to the masses of the Palestinian people, both within and outside of the occupied territory, their sincere greetings on this occasion, which has charted a new course for the Arab national liberation movement.

"The steadfastness of the Palestine revolution throughout the bygone years in the face of the Zionist enemy and the conspiracies of his imperialist allies is a sign of the vitality of our Palestinian Arab people, whose Arab national identity the Zionist schemes have not been able to take away, nor have they been able to uproot the dream of returning from the passion of its new generations.

"The masses of the Egyptian people are aware that they are now exposed to the same schemes, whose object is to do away with their Arab national aspirations, at the head of which is supporting and upholding the right of the Palestinian people to set up a secular democratic state on the entirety of the occupied Palestinian territory. These are schemes which we are certain will fail, because no one can change the facts of the history which binds the Egyptians and the Palestinians together. Hail to the struggle of the Palestinian people! Hail to the memory of the martyrs of the Egyptian-Palestinian common struggle against Zionism and imperialism! Revolution till victory!"

The Text of the Proclamation

The proclamation said, "Today, 1 January 1981, the Palestine revolution, as it completes the 15th year since the firing of the first round into the breast of the Israeli enemy, affirms that it still possesses its unlimited gift and its

proud capabilities of defiance, the effective struggle embodiment of the will of the Arab people everywhere in the nation for liberation from imperialism, Zionism, oppression, backwardness, and national fragmentation.

"The 15th anniversary of the outbreak of the revolution comes at this time after the beginning of a year when the train of local and international events which have accumulated on our doorsteps indicates that it will witness the deepest and broadest open conflict in the history of the world since World War II between the forces of liberation, progress, and peace and those of imperialism and the giant companies of numerous nationalities and races. These are the forces which try, after having been able to gain control temporarily over strategic positions in the Third World, to launch their final assault on the movement of history and the victories of the individual and the peoples, and this is what threatens the return to the atmospheres of the cold war and its aggressionistic military bases and the rage against the political and economic independence of the nations. Furthermore, this revolutionary anniversary, with its radiant presence, is being dissolved, while the Arab nation has been shocked by the Camp David policy and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty under the U.S. umbrella, and torn apart by the incidental Arab-Arab struggles at the expense of the principal struggle against imperialism and Zionism, and has discoursed on its positive capabilities in a serious form to expand the scope of the oppressive measures of numerous forms against the Arab individual and his rights of drawing up and executing the resolutions which touch on Egypt and the future of the nation. This is what has brought unity of Arab work in confronting the internal and external challenges to the minimum necessary level, especially the new imperialist-Zionist attack.

"The Palestine revolution permits us today a revolutionary modesty, the hope and the example, by the persistence of its combat and political steadfastness, and its popular organizational unity within and outside of occupied Palestine, in spite of what it faces in daily armed collision with the forces of the enemy, the operations of annihilation and oppression of the Palestinian people and their leaders in the occupied territory, and the attempts to encompass, beguile, and surround the mine-laden Arab land. The revolution, which its ability to create a united revolutionary entity amid extremely complex conditions, sets the example in our Arab nation and rings the danger bell for confronting the incidental Arab-Arab strifes which prevent the building of the united Arab national entity which will be able to confront the common danger (by united Arab action).

"The NPUG party, which is organically connected with the Palestine revolution and its organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, addresses with full responsibility and earnestness the whole Arab people in the [Arab] nation from its ocean to its gulf, demanding participation in the Palestine revolution with all its powers and in an effective manner, for that is the way to build unity of Arab work for which there is no substitute for the sake of political and economic liberation, economic and social progress, and the attainment of democracy and ethnic unity.

"The NPUG party, which appreciates deeply the sacrifices of the Palestinian people, both martyrs and warriors, within and outside [of Palestine], believes that these sacrifices are the price not only of the liberation of Palestine,

but also of the liberation of the whole Arab world, and a boost for the movement of modern mankind in its open modern conflict with imperialism and racism, which impudently defies the right of the peoples to self-determination and the embodiment of their free will in peace and the selection of their path of development and progress."

CSO: 4802

DIRECTOR REVIEWS MONETARY FUND'S GOALS, ACHIEVEMENTS

Sharjah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 22 Jul 80 Banks, Insurance, Investment Supplement p 3

[Interview with Arab Monetary Fund Director Jawwad Hashim: "Arab Monetary Fund Director Gives Ideas on the Fund's Role in the Arab Economic Strategy; Fund Is Big Achievement in Comparison to Similar Institutions; Study on Coordination of Financial and Monetary Policies and Positions on International Monetary Policies and Positions on International Monetary Issues; Loans Conditional on Reform Programs Have Made States Hesitant to Borrow from the Fund; Financial and Technical Assistance for Banking and Financial Institutions of Member States," date and place not given]

[Text] Arab Monetary Fund director Jawwad Hashim talked to AL-KHALIJ about his ideas on the tasks which will be entrusted to the fund in the future and the potential for the advancement of its developmental role in the Arab world. He also explained the bank's lending policies, the potential for monetary integration among the Arab states, and the fund's role with regard to the joint Arab strategy which will be set at the coming Arab summit conference. I asked Dr Jawwad Hashim the following questions.

[Question] More than 3 years after the establishment of the fund, and in light of the criticisms which were made at the recent meeting of the board of directors concerning fund policy, what in your view are the current directions in the implementation of these policies, and what difficulties do you anticipate, particularly in the area of lending policies and policies pertaining to monetary integration among the Arab states?

Goals of the Fund

[Answer] Based on the provisions of the founding agreement of the fund, the fund is charged with working toward participation in the achievement of a number of goals in the monetary and financial field. We can divide these goals into two main types:

First, there is the goal of helping to correct the imbalance in the balance of payments accounts of the member states.

This goal is very similar to that behind the incentives provided by the International Monetary Fund, and the largest part of the fund's revenues and capital is used for this purpose.

Secondly, there are other goals which can be combined under the heading of "contributing to the establishment of the basic elements necessary for Arab economic integration." Under this heading fall nearly all the other goals stipulated by Article 4 of the agreement, starting with the coordination of monetary policies and the development of financial markets and ending with the establishment of a single Arab currency. These are purely Arab regional goals arising from the desire of the peoples and states to achieve total economic and political union at some time in the future of the nation.

With regard to the first goal pertaining to rectifying the imbalance in the member states' balances of payments, the fund has granted 10 loans to these states during the first 3 years of its existence. These loans total some 30 million Arab accounting dinars, or approximately \$120 million. There are two additional loan applications now before the fund which are still under study.

I might mention that we granted the first loan 15 months after the establishment of the fund, and there was no period of preparation prior to this. Internally, during this period, we formulated our lending policy, standards, and procedures. It is self-evident that this is a very short period for any newly established institution which has no models to follow because it is the first of its kind in the Arab world. By way of comparison, when the International Monetary Fund was established, it took 5 years of internal preparation before it could offer any incentives to member states.

Naturally, an experiment of this type cannot attain perfection at the beginning. The fund's technical organization is working continuously to develop fund policy in the loan field. It is also studying the different options available in the area of loan terms and procedures and the content of the reform programs which the fund requires when it grants an ordinary or extended loan. These programs ensure that correction of the balance of payments problem will be achieved while making certain that, first, the course of development in the country obtaining the loan will be maintained and, second, that the loaned funds will be paid back so that the other states can utilize them in a continuous cycle.

The technical organization is currently studying the possibility of opening new avenues or creating new incentives to increase the fund's effectiveness and enable the member states to take maximum advantage of the fund's existence. In my speech before the board of directors last April, I put forward a number of proposals which the fund is now engaged in studying.

Loan Difficulties

With regard to difficulties pertaining to loans, I pointed out some of them in my speech to the board of directors, and some of the directors focused on other difficulties. These difficulties lie basically in the fact that most of the states with a deficit are hesitant to turn to the fund for loans which are conditional on a reform program. This hesitancy has resulted in a low volume of granted loans relative to the size of the balance of payments deficit of these states. It is certain that this hesitancy cannot be attributed to the stringency of the loan terms, because the states concerned have not submitted applications and have not studied the terms. The applications for conditional loans met with positive results when presented. Basically, the hesitancy is due to the fund agreement, which limits the loan ceiling for a member state to three times the state's share of paid-up capital.

The amount of paid-up capital currently stands at half of the subscribed capital. In addition, most of the states which would be most likely to utilize fund loans have small shares in the fund. In my opinion, the size of the fund, which was set in the mid-1970's, did not allow for the possibility of the large growth in the balance of payments deficits that we now perceive.

Fund Potential Must Be Increased

In addition, there is great liquidity in the international financial market. For this reason, many of the states prefer to borrow on the world financial markets, even at high interest rates, rather than taking loans which are conditional on the institution of a reform program, as is the case with the fund. This is because world commercial banks do not demand such conditions. It is worth mentioning here that in 1979 the IMF also experienced a decline in the amount it loaned to the developing states despite their ever-increasing need and despite the relative importance of the IMF's loans.

Therefore, I believe that as long as the fund is unable to offer loans in relatively large amounts commensurate with the size of the deficit affecting the states, these states will not have a big incentive to turn to the fund no matter how favorable the conditions may be unless they are forced to do so and are in severe need. Therefore, the fund's loan potential must be increased in order to make it more effective in this area.

As for some of the formal difficulties surrounding the actual conclusion of a loan and the need for ratification of the loan by the legislative authorities in the country obtaining the loan, I believe that these difficulties are secondary. The organization is currently preparing proposals to eliminate these procedural difficulties. It can also be said that the fund agreement includes many details in the provisions which deprive them of the necessary flexibility and work against clear interpretation in the case of certain passages. We intend to prepare a plan to amend some of the provisions in the agreement with the aim of making them more flexible, and some of the directors have promised to make recommendations in this connection.

Monetary Integration

As for the second part of the question pertaining to the monetary elements necessary for economic integration among the Arab countries, it is self-evident that these are long-range goals and will be achieved gradually. As is generally known, a number of factors work against the possibility of achieving these goals rapidly. Included in these factors are the nature of the present political and economic fragmentation in the Arab world and the economic backwardness which has tended to tie the Arab economies to the economies of the major industrialized states and has brought about a lack of Arab economic interdependence.

For this reason, there must be a certain phase in which efforts are devoted to scientific study of the problems and the proposal of phased solutions or politically acceptable scientific measures which will lead with time to a deepening of monetary and financial interdependence and integration. These efforts and measures go along with the other efforts made in the areas of expansion of trade and coordination of investment policies and agricultural and industrial development plans. In this way,

we could encourage the member states to move ahead on the road to monetary coordination and cooperation until the now-distant goal comes within reach.

To this end, the fund has drafted an internal working plan extending to 1982 which contains a time schedule for the completion of a number of high-priority studies. These include studies on the development of Arab financial markets, the settlement of current payment accounts, regional monetary integration, and the like. In addition, the fund is now making preparations for a scientific seminar on regional currency consolidation in which major international and Arab monetary experts will participate. This seminar will be held here in Abu Dhabi in November.

Unified Arab Position

In addition, the fund is currently studying the possibility of initiating regular deliberations with its members aimed at coordinating financial and monetary policies and positions on international monetary issues. The fund has been entrusted with the task of preparing the unified address of the Arab states' delegations to the annual meetings of the IMF. It has also been assigned other duties by the board of directors of Arab Central Banks. Moreover, the organization is itself preparing to conduct a series of comparative studies on various aspects of the economies of the Arab homeland to form a basis for proposals in a variety of areas.

Aside from this, the fund has created a program of technical assistance for the benefit of the banking and financial organizations of the member states, and it has allocated considerable sums for this purpose. The fund is now making preparations for two courses, one on balance of payments accounts and the other on the management of reserves for the benefit of the member states. These two seminars, which will be held in early 1981, will include experts from the fund as well as international experts.

Based on this, we arrive at the view that what the fund has done thus far, and what it is now doing and preparing to do, is a big achievement--particularly when compared to the achievements of the other regional and international institutions over a similar 3-year period, and allowing for a limited number of members in the technical organization. We are working earnestly to supply it with the most knowledgeable and experienced personnel drawn from the citizens of the member states.

The Fund's Main Accomplishments

[Question] What do you envision for the Arab Monetary Fund in the joint Arab strategy which will be established at the coming Arab summit conference?

[Answer] In my view, the goals of the fund are not in conflict with the strategy of joint Arab economic action, which focuses on encouraging the process of Arab economic and social development, self-reliance, the exploitation of Arab resources in order to build the power and vigor of the Arab economy and Arab society, and increased economic interdependence and integration among the different parts of the Arab homeland. Therefore, the more that the member states are committed to acting in accordance with this strategy, the easier the fund's job of accomplishing and achieving its goals becomes. There is a tendency toward strengthening the role of the joint Arab financial institutions in the realization of this strategy, and thus it has been decided to increase the financial revenues of these institutions, which include the fund. The fund will then have the capacity to play a bigger role in

helping to correct the imbalance in the balance of payments accounts and to achieve its other goals.

[Question] What were the main results arrived at by the meeting of official monetary experts of the developing states which was held from 25 to 28 June, and which the fund took part in calling?

[Answer] The fund, in cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Investment Organization, issued the call late last June to a group of experts from the developing states for the purpose of studying reform of the international monetary system. This call was within the fund's scope of competence as a regional monetary organization whose goal is to coordinate the positions of the member states on international monetary issues. This was the fund's first experience in this field, and it enabled the fund to enter the international monetary arena as an influential institution representing the aspirations and interests of its member states and calling for reform of the international monetary system on a basis which is more just to the developing states and more in keeping with their economic interests.

This meeting of experts took part in supporting and backing the demands and proposals of the Group of 24 which were contained in a program of action aimed at bringing about reform in the international monetary system. This program was approved by the ministers of finance of the Group of 77 in Belgrade last year. The meeting concentrated especially on the necessity of treating the methods used to correct the imbalance in the balance of payments situations in the developing states in a way that is compatible with the need to maintain economic growth in these states and takes into consideration the structural nature and causes of this imbalance.

The meeting also explored the necessity of financing the deficit with appropriate terms and deadlines. In addition, there was a beneficial dialog on certain other issues and their proposed solutions. This dialog provided an exchange of views among a group of developing countries with diverse circumstances and problems, and this is a very desirable form of cooperation. It is self-evident that a large and beneficial meeting on a high technical level, such as this one, must necessarily be a forum for the putting forward of new ideas, and not a meeting which can reach studied solutions to complex issues which involve a multiplicity of interests and have been studied over a period of years.

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FRENCH LEADERS DISCUSS REQUISITES FOR EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 2 Jan 81 pp 22-24

[Interview with European Parliamentarian Daniel Goulet and LE MONDE Editor Maurice Delaury, by 'Adnan Nasrawayn in Paris, date not given]

[Text] In its latest seminar, AL-HAWADITH continues its inquiry into the opinions of senior French strategists, thinkers, politicians, information specialists and newsmakers about the essential problems of the Arab world, especially the problem of war and peace. For its latest session, AL-HAWADITH selected two men. The first is Daniel Goulet, head of the pro-Arab European parliamentary grouping, which includes 350 parliamentary delegates from various European countries who are all working, through their own parliaments, to exert influence and pressure for the sake of achieving a greater understanding of Arab issues. Goulet is considered one of the men best informed about the secrets of Middle East peace activities, French ones in particular and European ones in general, and for this reason the interview with him is particularly important.

AL-HAWADITH also chose the senior editor for international diplomatic affairs for the widely-circulated LE MONDE to participate in this interview. Maurice Delaury is one of the greatest Middle East specialists in French information circles, in view of LE MONDE's importance and his closeness to key figures in France's Arab policy. Delaury accompanied President d'Estaing on his Arab trip, and also followed at close hand the European summit conferences in Luxembourg and Venice, which brought about a European lead in western diplomatic efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

The importance of this interview lies in the fact that it reflects French decision-makers' concern over the regional crisis and their desire to achieve a joint mutual understanding leading to peace.

[Question] How do you evaluate the results of the recent European summit conference in Luxembourg with respect to the Middle East? Do you believe that it came up with any new, positive steps towards forming an effective European initiative to help bring peace to that part of the world?

[Answer by Goulet] The recent European summit conference in Luxembourg was just one of the ongoing meetings held by European leaders to discuss developments in current world situations, especially the Middle East crisis, and to adopt the appropriate methods to help find a just, comprehensive settlement for this part of the world. The fact that the European summit conference was convened, and the concern which the

European leaders showed for the Arab-Israeli struggle, constitute an excellent, positive initiative on the part of the European countries, indicating that Europe's concern for the Middle East has not ceased, but is continuing. Every European stand, no matter what it is, is a positive step, reminding the world of the existence of the Middle East issue and the seriousness of the continuing tension in that part of the world. The ongoing contacts among the European parties must finally and inevitably arrive at a practical step promoting peace, by means of a European initiative in the area. This is especially true because the European nations, at the June Venice conference, outlined the sound principles on which this peace must be based-- the need for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and the PLO's participation in settlement efforts.

In another context, the timing of the recent European summit conference in Luxembourg adds qualitatively to its importance, because the French president participated in it, even though the French presidential elections will be held 4 months from now. In spite of observers' expectations that President Giscard d'Estaing would put a stop to the course which France has been following in European circles ever since his last statements about the Palestinian cause during his Arab tour last March, because of the closeness of French presidential election day, nevertheless the French president has preferred to continue his efforts in European circles in order to better clarify the European stand towards the Arab-Israeli struggle. This is because a suspension of European concern for the region, even for a short time, would mean stagnation. Here lies the importance of dealing with the Middle East issue at this very time, and clarifying the European stand towards it.

[Answer by Delaury] I believe that the recent European summit conference in Luxembourg achieved a positive step forwards in the European stand vis-a-vis peace efforts in the Middle East. Naturally, this step was timid and limited in comparison with the European Middle East step taken during the European summit conference in Venice last June. But it must be kept in mind that European political decisions are extremely difficult, because during the summit conferences complete conformity is imposed on all ten European states (ten now that Greece has joined the Common Market). Such European consensus is extremely hard to achieve. Therefore, in my opinion, the most positive thing about the recent Luxembourg statement is that there was a European consensus on continuing the European efforts and contacts with all the parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli struggle. This is extremely important since we know that current international circumstances have proven the danger of suspending European activities in the Middle East, especially since the United States is now undergoing a stage of transition of power from one president to another. Therefore, America is going through an unclear political phase, and no one knows what will happen in the United States once Reagan reaches the White House, nor what political stands he will adopt towards current international issues.

The second danger, which almost disrupted the continuity of European diplomatic efforts towards the Middle East, is the escalation of Arab differences and the rending of unity in the Arab ranks. Faced with this, some Europeans have stressed the need for deliberation until Reagan reaches the White House and until Arab differences are resolved, at which time Europe can continue its efforts and define its stands towards the Middle East.

But France has correctly rejected this notion, and has demanded that the Arab-Israeli struggle be discussed again during the Luxembourg conference and that the European

stand on this issue be clarified, because Paris believes that if Europe wants to play an effective role in the region, it has to consolidate its political presence and role, in spite of everything. If Europe stops consolidating its diplomatic presence, this will paralyze the entire situation. European diplomatic activity in the Middle East is extremely difficult. The Europeans have decided to continue their efforts and to take steps which might be limited at the present time. But later on they will be able to take more rapid steps towards effective, positive results on the road to a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East, in accordance with the settlement principles defined at the Venice summit conference.

[Question] Do you believe that all the European states are equally concerned about the Middle East and the efforts towards a just, comprehensive peace there?

[Answer by Goulet] No, I don't believe that all the European states are equally concerned about what is going on in the Middle East, or that all the European capitals strongly desire an active European role in helping to find a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Today we are seeing West Germany, Britain and Holland taking extremely insignificant steps in this direction, preferring to follow behind American Middle East policy. France is the European state most enthusiastic about the idea that an effective European diplomatic initiative, working alongside other international efforts, could achieve a comprehensive peace in that part of the world. Here I must mention that by means of the statement issued at the European Venice conference, France extracted from its European allies extensive support for the settlement principles so essential for the region, since for the first time the European leaders spoke unanimously, through the official Venice statement, of their insistence on the need to give the Palestinian people the right to self-determination and to have the PLO participate in the diplomatic efforts. But even now there are some European states which, even though they believe in these principles, hesitate to demand their effective and practical implementation, and insist that the settlement conditions primarily include concern for the security and safety of Israel.

[Question] After the Luxembourg statement, what steps will Europe take in the future to push the Middle East peace effort along its proper course?

[Answer by DeLaury] I was in Luxembourg during the recent European summit conference meetings, and I learned from well-informed European sources that the European leaders had seriously studied the report prepared by the heads of political departments of European foreign ministries after intense contacts with the parties in the Arab-Israeli struggle.

In Luxembourg the European heads of state agreed to draw up the broad outlines of a European Middle East settlement plan which would indicate how the principles enunciated at the Venice summit conference could be implemented practically. But they did not reveal the outlines of this plan, which remained secret. They concentrated primarily on the need for mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians. This European plan also includes the four steps which must be included in a just Middle East settlement: Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands occupied since 1976; a guarantee of the security and stability of every state in the region; giving the Palestinian people the right to self-determination; and the status of Jerusalem.

It became obvious during the Luxembourg conference that all the European leaders agreed on the need to try to find a peaceful Middle East settlement as quickly as possible, but to date they have not yet outlined the measures which might be taken to actually implement the principles of a peaceful Middle East settlement.

In another context, the Europeans are convinced that it is not up to them to impose any settlement on the parties in the Arab-Israeli struggle. All they have to do is to show the contending parties what principles must be achieved to guarantee this settlement, which must include all sides of the Arab-Israeli struggle, and impose mutual concessions on all the parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli struggle.

[Question] During the European summit conference in Luxembourg, the European leaders authorized the current president of the European council, who is the Dutch foreign minister, to continue contacting the parties in the Arab-Israeli struggle so as to round out Former Council President Gaston Thorne's mission. What is the significance of these European contacts under these particular circumstances?

[Answer by Goulet] The mission which the Dutch foreign minister and European council president will carry out during his present term, in the name of the European community, is a very sensitive one, and he will have to be very diplomatic. His mission is limited to feeling the pulse of the parties concerned. But this time, what is new about the European delegate's Middle East mission is that while Gaston Thorne's earlier mission was a fact-finding one, the Dutch foreign minister will present proposals to the parties involved in the struggle so as to guide them towards peace. In this, he will start from the need to implement the four principles referred to by the Europeans in the final statement of the Luxembourg conference. By these I mean Israeli withdrawal, self-determination for the Palestinians, guaranteeing the security and peace of all the states in the area, and maintaining Jerusalem's special status.

Therefore, I believe that the European delegate's mission is not limited to getting the parties in the Arab-Israeli dispute to discuss their conceptions about how to implement these principles, nor to presenting European notions of a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Personally, I am convinced that until the next European summit in July, European contacts with the parties in the struggle will not be limited to the Dutch foreign minister's contacts with the area's countries. Rather, these contacts will continue, on the highest levels, between European leaders and the leaders of the states involved in the struggle. I also imagine that in the course of their contacts, the European leaders will turn to Washington and Moscow, to convince them of the importance and effectiveness of the stands Europe is taking to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

[Question] It is a fact that in the past Holland has taken certain anti-Arab stands. Will Holland's foreign minister and president of the current session of the European council have any influence on general European stands vis-a-vis the Middle East issue and Arab rights?

[Answer by DeLaury] Actually, in the past Holland has taken a pro-Israeli stand with respect to the Middle East issue, and Dutch diplomats have not taken any daring stands in this respect. This will no doubt make the role of the European delegate, the Dutch foreign minister, seem insignificant to the Arab parties in the struggle.

I do not expect this mission to have any tangible results until the next session in July, when the president of the European council will be British. Britain has a conservative government now, and the conservatives know the Arab world very well. The Foreign Ministry and the conservative party has what we call a "traditional Arab policy." I believe that British Foreign Minister Lord Carrington would like his name to be linked with the possibility of finding a solution to the Middle East issue, for he understands well the aspirations and concerns of the Arab world. In early July, when Lord Carrington becomes president of the European council, he will take the bridle in his hand. In my opinion, he will take the decisive step towards a European role in the Middle East, especially since the Americans will pay full attention to the British stand.

[Question] But before the Luxembourg summit conference, Britain opposed any European Middle East initiative.

[Answer by DeLaury] I don't believe that Britain was against a European Middle East initiative. These rumors about the British were stirred up by the appearance of an article in the HERALD TRIBUNE which attributed such an attitude to British Foreign Minister Lord Carrington. But the remark was not quoted directly, but indirectly, and some of the remarks were passed on from Foreign Ministry sources.

Therefore, one can assume that the article's contents did not directly express the policy of Lord Carrington, who in turn issued an explanatory statement denying that he was against any European Middle East initiative.

Therefore, I don't believe that Lord Carrington is opposed to a European political initiative in the Middle East. I believe that what the British foreign minister is saying is that he would not like Europe to go too far now in its Middle East peace plan--that Europe should give the the Americans some time to reach the same conclusions and adopt the same stands as the Europeans. At that time, there will be a joint American-European effort in the region. This is what Lord Carrington will work towards once he becomes president of the European council next July. He will make intense contacts with Washington to convince it to adopt the same stand as the Europeans in any Middle East peace efforts.

In any case, the European role is continuing, and the European leaders are not publicizing all the proposals they have made for promoting this European role. The closing statement of the Luxembourg summit indicated, to a certain extent, Europe's concern for this area, since it emphasized that the European leaders are assigning European foreign ministry political specialists the task of conclusively determining the foundations for the European initiative. As far as I know, Lord Carrington has agreed to these European decisions.

[Question] During his last visit to Paris, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced that Europe has no role to play in the Middle East. With such Israeli logic, what is the use of European efforts in that part of the world?

[Answer by Coulet] The Israeli foreign minister can say what he wants to, but there are international facts which Israel and its leaders cannot ignore. That is, international conventions prohibit continued occupation of other people's territory by military force. Also, the entire international family is directly affected by what happens in the Middle East, especially Europe, which is the area's Mediterranean

neighbor. The area concerns Europe politically, strategically, economically and culturally. Therefore, Europe's voice must be heard in any important issue which directly concerns it. If necessary, Europe will be called on to help out militarily, although I think this is unlikely, to force Israel to make an effort to achieve a just peace. But Europe is being called on to put political, economic and commercial pressure on Israel to force it to accept the settlement principles required for the Middle East.

[Question] My question is directed to Mr Goulet also. What is your role, as European parliamentarians in the European-Arab parliamentary grouping, in helping induce the European states to adopt effective political stands vis-a-vis the Middle East?

[Answer by Goulet] There are more than 350 European parliamentarians in the European-Arab parliamentary grouping, affiliated with all the political trends and parties in their countries. Our role is to shake up the European parliaments in order to urge our European governments to show more concern for adopting decisive European stands towards the Arab-Israeli struggle. Our role also includes correctly informing European public opinion and presenting all aspects of the Arab-Israeli struggle and all issues pertaining to Arab-European cooperation.

Under the present circumstances, I can say that Arab differences are not making the European parliamentarians' mission any easier, and are posing an obstacle to the adoption of a unified European stand towards Arab issues. The ranks and voice of the Arab nations must be united, to enable Europe to adopt a unified stand towards Middle East problems by means of an effective European initiative.

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CSO: 4802

REGIME TAKES MEASURES TO PLACATE ISLAM

Guarantees of Second Phase of Revolution

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 Dec 80 p 3

[Text] After the victory of the Saur Revolution, when an end was put to the reactionary and exploitative ruling classes, the productive and toiling masses of our country were afforded an opportunity, for the first time, to gain their truly democratic rights and freedoms by mastering their own destiny.

During the short-lived fascist rule of Amin, the known agent of US imperialism, our toiling people were subjected to most horrible and inhumane oppression. Amin, the spy, deviated the revolution from its real course. However, with the uprising of Jaldi 6 (27 December) and dawning of the new phase of the Saur Revolution, favourable conditions were again provided in the interest of toiling productive forces and all other national and democratic strata.

The enforcement of the DRA Fundamental Principles, based on the will and expectations of our heroic and epoch-making people, will leave profound imprint on the destiny

of our society our country and our people. In the light of this Fundamental Principles our people will be able to succeed in building a democratic and new society. In the Fundamental Principles, as the constitution of the country, all aspects of our downtrodden people's life, and ways to free them from the oppression and exploitation are taken into consideration.

In the DRA Fundamental Principles, greater attention is focused on freedom of religious rites. The Article Five of the DRA Fundamental Principles reads in part: "Respect, observance and preservation of Islam as sacred religion will be ensured in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and freedom of religious rites guaranteed for Moslems..."

It was after the triumphant of Saur Revolution, especially its new phase, that our people were enabled to enjoy freedom in performing their religious

rites, worshipping and expressing freely their religious beliefs.

Because the government belongs to the people and people support and safeguard the government now there is no gap between the two.

Notwithstanding the false propaganda of our enemies and forces relating to imperialism, the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has provided better conditions for performances of religious rites. The DRA government further expands its activities in safeguarding the religion and protecting the national and religious practices of our people by building mosques and encouraging the clergymen and religious leaders.

After the victory of the new phase of the Saur Revolution the Moslem people of Afghanistan freely and without any fear perform their religious rites. The same is true about the followers of other faiths in the country.

Utilising the religious freedoms guaranteed under the DRA Fundamental Principles the Ismaili sect marked, for the first time openly, their religious day. During the special ceremony a number of the followers of the sect thanked the DRA revolutionary government for providing facilities enabling various nationalities in the country to perform their religious ceremonies.

Similarly, the Afghan Hindus openly marked the Babab Nanak birthday this year. The ceremony marking the five hundred twelfth birth anniversary of Baba Nanak was attended by thousands of Hindu compatriots. They were happy to have been afforded an opportunity to mark this occasion in an old Hindu temple in the old city of Kabul.

These were but a few examples of the religious freedoms guaranteed under the DRA Fundamental principles.

Likewise, all the mosques and Takias are open and people freely go to perform their religious rites. During the week days and on Fridays the mosques in Kabul are thronged with people saying prayers.

This year 8,000 of our Moslem compatriots were afforded an opportunity to go to Holy Mecca for pilgrimage, an unprecedented number so far gone for this purpose in one single year.

Unlike the announcement made last year during the rule of Amin, the haggman, a meagre number of people were afforded to go to Holy Mecca for pilgrimage. It was due to anti-popular policy of Hafizullah Amin under which treacherous restrictions were imposed as regards the religious performances of our Moslem people. Last year only 438 people were able to go to Holy Mecca. During Amin rule the Haj tax was fixed at Afis. 35,000 a very unjust and anti-people decisions.

However, after the victorious Jabi 6 (27 December) uprising the DRA government has made strenuous efforts to provide facilities for our people in all walks of life. In order to help our Moslem people, the tax for Haj and holy shrines was fixed only at Afis. 5000.

Further more the Justice Ministry provided added facilities for our Moslem people who wanted to go to Holy Mecca for pilgrimage, including assignment of well equipped medical teams, providing potable waters for Afghan Hajis at their camps; to find accommodation in Saudi Arabia. The hajis were also helped both within the country and outside in exchange of foreign currency.

In order to help the Afghan Hajis to easily get their travel documents, facilities were provided for them to obtain their passports from their respective provinces, unlike the

previous years when all the Hajis had to travel all the way of Kabul to obtain passports.

Praise by Clergyman

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 Dec 80 pp 3, 4

[Text] Mawlawi Abdul Aziz Sadiq, President of Islamic Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in an interview with the reporter of Kabul New Times said:

The victorious uprising of December 27th, 1979 is reckoned as a significant historical event and as a stage for the liberation of the long-suffered people and the national democratic revolution of April 27th, 1979.

In the light of the development stage of the April revolution our people got rid for ever of the inhuman tortures and the suppression created by dishonest Amin and his band traitorous to the country and the revolution. Thousands of innocent prisoners unconditionally were saved from Pul-i-Char-Khi jail regardless of their religion and their race and joyfully joined their families. Our beloved country, the revolutionary and peaceful Afghanistan who was in great jeopardy due to the most malicious and beastly conspiracies of U.S. imperialism, this trembling, fading and criminal fortress and his unprincipled, unscrupulous accomplices, was saved from the great danger by the virtue of the victorious uprising of December 27th, 1979.

With the uprising of Dec. 27th, 1979, the different strata and multi-

nationalities of free, independent Afghanistan won popular and democratic liberties, inter alia, the freedoms for the religious worship for the different honourable and esteemed people of Afghanistan. Right now, the honourable people of our dear country are performing their religious rites in the most complete, free, and democratic atmosphere. The people in the districts and provinces of the country are intrepidly going to fully enjoy such popular freedoms which were wiped out by Amin and his fascist band. These highest humanistic freedoms have also been embodied in article fifth of DRA Fundamental Principles.

It is an undeniable fact that the blackest era is the era of Amin, this known and identified black spy of devilish U.S. imperialism, this black era will never be forgotten for its notoriety by our oppressed people. In this anti-people period, the national and democratic freedoms as well as the freedoms for the performance of religious rites of our dear people were totally disappeared. Our people lived their lives in great risk and intimidation and they suffered tortures without any offense. But, fortunately, all these suffocating chains which were tied and knitted together by the chained dogs of

Amin and his uncultured followers were all broken by the victorious uprising equivalent to December 27th, 1979 and the people were fully emancipated. As we have witnessed that the freedoms of faiths, freedom of religious rites, observance to the principles of the sacred religion of Islam have all been included in the historical speech of general secretary of PDPA CC, President of Revolutionary Council and DRA Prime Minister, Babrak Karmal, delivered by him through Radio-Television on April 14th, 1980. In view of such developments, we can certainly call this new stage a liberating stage for the revolution and the people.

The fundamental principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in which utmost efforts have been exerted towards social transformations, national unity, and the construction of a new society based on the principle of peace and freedom, progress and justice, equality and fraternity, respect to historical, national, cultural and religious rites can be considered as a directive principle for the people and the country, particularly the fifth article of the fundamental principle is to be stressed here. The fifth article of the fundamental principle reads:

In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the sacred religion of Islam is respected, honoured, observed and maintained; and the freedoms for performing religious rites for all Moslems are guaranteed. Followers of other religions are also fully free to perform their faithful and religious rites provided that they should not

In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the sacred religion of Islam is respected, honoured, observed and maintained; and the freedoms for performing religious rites for all Moslems are guaranteed. Followers of other religions are also fully free to perform their faithful and religious rites provided that they should not threaten the society's security. The society aids and assists the patriotic activities of the clergies, the religious scholars and theologians in fulfilling their duties and obligations.

During the reign of bloodthirsty Amin, our defenceless people could not perform their religious rites in a free atmosphere because patriot and pious people were to be ruthlessly tortured, were under baseless accusations, and innocent people were put to jail under different pretexts. With the glorious uprising of December 27th, our people were rescued from any kinds of strangulations and terror and they intrepidly pay tribute to their

religious and faithful rites. This human conduct is known to all, and thus we can not relate this era to the era of the uncultured Amin, and this period can be considered as the most highest era.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED

Loans for Exports

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] **KABUL, Dec. 24, (Bakhtar).—** In the light of lofty objectives of our revolutionary government to help producers increase their productions and to further develop handicraft industries in the country and finally to help the traders and national capital holders, the Exports Promotion Bank has extended, in the first nine months of this year, loans to various firms amounting to Afs. 788,834,-529, which compared to previous year of 1358 shows an increase of 33 per cent.

To further gain the confidence of clients the Bank has made available facilities for opening of import credits, mainly for import of essential materials and other commodities needed by our people, including the raw materials for edible oil manufacturing plants and other essential materials.

The President of the Exports Promotion Bank said the balance of import credits, from the beginning of this year until now, amounts to \$ 11,670,-881, £35,691, and DM 280,195, which is 575 per cent more than the previous year.

He said due to considerable increase noted earlier, one can see that by providing necessary facilities the Bank afforded an opportunity to the

national traders to make use of the Bank's credits, and participation of national traders is an example of healthy confidence of the clients to the Bank's services.

The Exports Promotion Bank's healthy and positive performances has gained the confidence of foreign dealers, local and foreign clients and it enjoys good reputation, at international level and among sister organisations.

The President of Exports Promotion Bank said during the same period the Bank has extended the largest loan of Afs. 120 million to the Mewai Samoon Company.

Purchase of Generators

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 22 Dec 80 p 4

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 22, (Bakhtar).--The contract on purchase of six diesel generators worth 96,000 pound sterling has been concluded recently between the Afghan Seeds Company and British Essex Company in New Delhi.

The contract has been signed by Vice President of the Seeds Company and representative of the Essex Company.

Under the contract, six diesel generators will be delivered in two months, after opening letter of credit, through Hairatan port. The generators will be used for running cotton gin and press machine in Marja, Helmand Sardeh, Ghazni, Tarnak, Kandahar, and Larkhabi, Baghlan.

Opening of Consumer Goods Stores

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 28 Dec 80 p 4

[Text] KABUL, Dec. 28, (Bakhtar).-- Three other stores were opened in various parts of the city in continuation of establishing of commercial cooperative firms.

Opened by the Ministry of Commerce to help the people, consumer goods such as cloths for men, women and children, footwear, cashmere cloths, woolen, cotton and rayon cloths are sold at the stores at a reduced price, compared to the market price.

The three new stores, located in Mohammad Jan Khan Wat, Charrahi Ansari and Maiwand Wat, were opened by President of Commercial, friendship Cooperatives Department of the Ministry of Commerce last Thursday.

A source of the Ministry of Commerce said, the number of such stores, now

seven, will reach to 12 until the end of the current year.

Consumers goods such as refrigerators, watches, cameras, kitchen wares, etc. is also envisaged to be sold at reasonable price at the stores in the future.

Similar stores are scheduled to be opened in the provinces in the future the source added.

The four other stores opened already are located at Jada Maiwand, Salang Wat, Jamhouriat Market opposite Afghan Store, and Saray Shahzada. Considerable amount of consumer goods to be supplied to the compatriots through these stores.

ARTICLE CRITICIZES IRAN-USSR TRANSIT TREATY

Tehran RANJBAR in Persian 11 Dec 80 pp 1,6

[Article: "The Transit Treaty With the Soviets Is Dangerous for the Independence of Iran. It Also Threatens Peace in the Area and Could Be Used Against Afghan Insurgents."]

[Text] Iran-USSR Transit Treaty was approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly before the public or even the majority of Majles representatives could learn about its details or its possible consequences for the country. Conditions created by the Iraqi-imposed war (in which Russian imperialism, by providing arms to the Ba'athist regime of Iraq, has played an important role), coupled with the economic sanctions against Iran, lack of programming and bungling, justified the necessity for its approval in its present form by the authorities. Those, who until yesterday, believed that the economic sanctions against Iran was to our advantage and was to be welcomed, and those who had made slogans of the breaking of economic relations with the West and of our lack of need for foreign-made goods, suddenly became concerned for the shortage of medicine for the sick and the shortage of spare parts for the plants, and became convinced that a so-called "anti-imperialist" transit route through the Soviet Union was so urgently needed that they were not satisfied with anything less than urgent approval of the treaty. They claimed that a one-sided agreement "was in the interest of Iran" and that it should be based on the "good intention" with the northern neighbor. We leave the article to article analysis of the treaty for the next issues. Here, we confine ourselves to certain basic points:

Treaties With Superpowers Are Not on Equal Basis

Past international experiences and colonial treaties of the past 200 years have demonstrated that agreements reached on the basis of need and under pressure, especially between a relatively weak nation and an imperialist superpower, will serve the interest of the big power before it can be of any benefit to us. There are big differences between treaties signed between two equal powers and the ones signed between a Third World nation and an imperialist superpower. Take the Iran-USSR Transit Treaty for example. Our country's only aim is to satisfy its immediate needs. It has no aggressive or expansionist intention whatsoever and, therefore, does not pose any threat to the Soviet Union. On the other hand, the Soviets are seeking superiority throughout the entire world and one of its most important goals is the domination of the Persian Gulf and it is engaged in plots

and sabotage both in Iran and in the neighboring countries. Therefore, with the above-mentioned treaty, it will not only take control of part of our imports, but can also use it as a means to exert pressure against the Islamic Republic. Without any doubt, it will be utilized to further the cause of Soviet colonialism and expansionism.

Therefore, even though the two parties appear to be equal in the text of the treaty, and the articles of the treaty apply to both on equal basis, but because of the essential difference between the two, Iran and the Soviet Union are going to benefit from it in different ways. It is for these reasons that, from the beginning of the victory of our revolution, we and other patriotic elements have insisted that the Islamic Republic of Iran must reduce its relations with the two superpowers to the minimum, and whenever the signing of a political or economic treaty with these world-devouring colonialist powers become a necessity, we must be alert and use extreme caution in order to be able to protect our national interest.

The Government Was Not Alert Enough

From what we know about the transit treaty to this moment it is obvious that the government was not alert. In briefing Majles representatives on the subject, the government spokesman had claimed that the principle of good-will had been relied on. This is lethal, especially when dealing with a superpower. As Imam Khomeyni has observed, relations with Iran and U.S. and the Soviet Union is like relations between a lamb and a wolf. There is no doubt that the Soviet imperialist power is bent to tear us up at the first opportunity and destroy the Islamic Republic. To this very moment the Soviet Union has refused to nullify the 1921 treaty, which grants them the right to send armies into our country, and has consistently engaged in spying and sabotage against us. Soviet spy planes and helicopters have repeatedly violated our territory, and it is a common knowledge that the Soviet Union, the Social Fascists of the Kremlin, are dreaming of reaching the warm waters of the Persian Gulf. Why is it that despite these facts, and the deep-rooted enmity of the Soviet imperialists with the Islamic Revolution of Iran, we should not be alert, and in the signing of our treaty with the Soviets, should rely on their good intentions and not be suspicious of this world-devouring superpower?

Roads for Soviet Misuse Have Been Left Open

In its treaties with the Third World countries of the world, the Soviet imperialism has often demonstrated that it mercilessly misuses weak points in the treaties to its own advantage, and articles of treaties are arranged and drafted in such a way so that they could later be used for furthering Soviet influence and domination. Occupation of Afghanistan, which was justified on the basis of the "friendship treaty" between the two countries, is a living example.

It is obvious that on the basis of the transit treaty with us the Soviets have certain "interests" in our country, that is, the use of our road network for transit of all kinds of goods. Who can guaranty that some day they are not going to, under the pretext of protecting these interests, interfere in our internal affairs, or even attack us? Did not the Soviets invade Afghanistan on the excuse that their southern flank had been threatened?

From the strategic point of view, and in the Soviet strategic plan, Iran transit route has a special strategic importance. It is of special concern for every patriotic Iranian when we realize that the treaty does not recognize any restriction for the goods that could be transported on transit and it could include arms and military equipment. Let us examine one of these routes which extends on the axis of Bajgiran, Zahedan and Bandar 'Abbas and review, in the light of the conditions in the area, its importance for the Soviet Union. This axis joins southern frontiers of the Soviet Union to the waters adjoining the Strait of Hormoz, passing close to Pakistan and Afghanistan. Now, let us have a glance at the conditions in the region.

- The Soviet Union has built its largest naval base in South Yemen. At the same time, a big Soviet flotilla is sailing in the Persian Gulf waters. The above-mentioned transit route is the shortest route for sending arms and equipment to the area mentioned.

- The Soviet Union has occupied our brother country of Afghanistan and is trying to suppress Afghan insurgents. The transit route in Iran could give the Soviets the opportunity to open up a new fighting front in western Afghanistan against the insurgents. In the light of the success of the insurgents in their struggle against the Soviet invaders, it would be a stab in the back of the insurgents.

- It is common knowledge that in the Soviet plan to reach the Persian Gulf, after Afghanistan it would be Baluchestan's turn. Soviet preparations for the invasion of the Baluchestan of Pakistan have already been completed. As for the Baluchestan of Iran, plots and preparations are underway. The transit route crossing Zahedan gives the Soviets an excellent opportunity to prepare for the implementation of its devilish plan. Considering possible [treaty] misuses by the Soviet Union, this transit route is not only dangerous for Baluchestan of Iran, but also for the neighboring Pakistan as well.

With these points taken into consideration, the question that arises is how could a nation, with the slogan of "neither the East nor the West" for its revolution, expose itself to such grave danger and then try to justify it with such excuses as the nation's need for medicine and so on, and provide facilities to an imperialist superpower? And why should the eastern region of the country, that should have remained a secure area behind the Afghan line of battle with the Soviet occupiers of their country, be turned into a region of arm shipment that could possibly be used against the Afghans.

The Soviets will certainly use transit routes in Iran for the implementation of their sinister plans, and, under the terms of their treaty with Iran, they will lay claim to certain "special privileges" in the country. A living example of the Soviet misuse of transit routes can be found in the shipment of arms and heavy military equipment from various transit ports to its satellite nations. These are shipped in boxes and crates marked "agricultural machinery," which is an open secret. Who can guarantee that boxes, marked "agricultural machinery" and destined for Pakistan and Afghanistan in transit through Zahedan, are not containing arms and ammunition, to be used by Russian agents and saboteurs.

The least that we could have asked was the banning of shipments of any sort of military supply in transit through Iran.

This brief review of some important articles of the transit treaty demonstrates how grave a threat it is to Iran's independence, to peace in the region and to regional liberation movements, especially the resistance movement in Afghanistan. Can we believe that those representatives who voted in favor of the treaty had not taken the trouble of going over it briefly? Contrary to what the government representative [testifying in Majles] said, the treaty is not a one-sided one favoring Iran. Iran has been deceived and cheated and an unfair and colonial treaty has been imposed on it. We will discuss this subject further.

9561

CSO: 4906

TEXT OF IRAN-USSR TRANSIT TREATY APPROVED BY MAJLES

Tehran ENQELAB-E ESLAMI in Persian 8 Dec 80 p 11

[Text] Single Article: Excellency Hojjatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, The Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly: The bill of the transit treaty signed between the Planning and Guidance department of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the "Soyuztranzit" of the Soviet Union, pertaining to transit of supplies and goods, and its protocol and 4 supplements, which were approved at the cabinet meeting on 5/8/59 [27 October 80], along with photocopies of the original treaty, its protocol and supplements, are hereby submitted, requesting their immediate approval (by the Majles). [Signed] Prime Minister, Minister of Roads and Transportation, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, Minister of Commerce, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The bill concerning the treaty signed between the Ministry of Roads and Transportation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and "Soyuztranzit" of the Soviet Union, concerning transit of goods, the photocopy of the original treaty, a protocol and four supplements [are being submitted].

Single Article: The transit treaty signed between the Planning and Guidance Department of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation and "Soyuztranzit" of the Soviet Union on 25/6/59 [16 September 80], its protocol and 4 supplements, are approved as per attached and its implementation is authorized. The Ministry of Roads and Transportation is authorized to take proper action.

Protocol

Concerning the signing of the treaty between the Planning and Guidance department of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the "Soyuztranzit" of the Soviet Union, on transit of commercial goods.

The present protocol is signed between the Planning and Guidance department of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the "Soyuztranzit" of the USSR, relating to the transit treaty that was signed in

Moscow on 25 Shahrivar 59, coinciding with the 16 of September 1980, at the presence of His Excellency Dr Mohammed Mokri, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and I. T. Grishin, deputy minister of USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade. Negotiations concerning the treaty were conducted in an atmosphere of understanding and friendship.

All-Union "Soyuztransit."

In The Name of The Almighty

The Treaty

Between Planning and Guidance department of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and All-Union "Soyuztransit" of the Soviet Union concerning transit of goods.

Under Article 6 of the treaty between Iran and the USSR on transit of goods by the 2 countries, which was signed in Tehran on 5 Ordibehesht 1336 [25 April 1957], the Department of Planning and Guidance of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, hereafter called "Tarabari" in the agreement, on the one side, and the All-Union "Soyuztransit", referred to in this agreement as "Soyuztransit," sign the following agreement:

Article 1

In the implementation of this agreement, "Tarabari" and the "Soyuztransit" will act as representatives of transportation institutions in their respective countries in issuing transportation documents and papers that are required for the transit of goods.

"Tarabari" will perform, on behalf of "Soyuztransit" or "Vneshttrans" and other Soviet economic and government agencies, all services (such as customs and port services) within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, that are required for the transit of goods shipped from the Soviet Union to a third country, or from a third country to the Soviet Union.

"Soyuztransit" will perform, on behalf of "Tarabari" and other economic and government agencies, all services (such as customs and port services) required for the transit of goods shipped to a third country via the Soviet Union or from a third country to Iran via the Soviet Union.

"Soyuztransit" and "Tarabari" will perform their commitments, based on their professional experience and the best interest of their clients and the third parties in mind. These responsibilities and commitments are spelled out in Article 7 of this treaty.

Article 2

Goods could be transported via Iranian and Soviet ports and land:

A. Iranian Territory:

1. On Land: Iranian Jolfa, Iranian Astara, Bajgiran and Zahedan.
2. Ports: Anzali, Nowshahr, Khorramshahr, Bandar-e Khomeyni, Bandar 'Abbas, Bushehr.

B. Soviet Territory:

1. On Land: Soviet Jolfa, Soviet Astara, Gaudan [sic], Brest, Chub [sic], Unkai [sic], Reni, Luzhayka, Navahki [sic--Nevskiy?], Zabaykal'sk.
2. Ports: Baku, Batumi, Poti, Tuapse, Zhdanov, Reni, Ismail, Leningrad, Tallinn, Riga, Ventspils, Klaypeda, Kaliningrad, Nakhodka.

Goods could be transported from other points, subject to agreement by the two parties.

Article 3

In connection with the points mentioned in the first article, the following procedure should be observed:

A. For transit shipments of goods from or to the Soviet Union by the Iranian state railways, "Tarabari" should be notified by telex or telegram, at least 3 days in advance.

B. For transit shipments of goods from or to the Soviet Union by ships, using Iranian ports, or by trucks via Iranian Jolfa and Astara, and Bajgiran, "Tarabari" must be notified in advance. Goods could be shipped only after confirmation by "Tarabari" in Tehran.

C. For the transit shipment of goods to or from the Islamic Republic of Iran by railways, that need not be loaded or unloaded in the Soviet Union, "Soyuztransit" in Moscow must be notified, by telex or telegram, at least 1 day in advance.

D. For transit shipment of goods to or from the Islamic Republic of Iran by ships using Soviet ports, or by trucks via Soviet Jolfa, Soviet Astara and Gaudan [sic], "Soyuztransit" in Moscow should be notified in advance. Goods could be shipped only after confirmation by "Soyuztransit."

In all cases, notification regarding transit of goods should be accompanied with the following information:

The sender's name and address, type of goods, the number of bales and packages, the total weight of each shipment, the approximate date of the arrival of goods at ports or border points, destination, the name and the address of the consignee, and the point or the port from where the goods will have to leave the country.

Where necessary, notification should be accompanied by special instructions regarding preparation of bills of lading.

Note: For shipment of outsized, heavy, dangerous and extra long packages and goods subject to quarantine, that must pass through the Soviet Union or the Islamic Republic of Iran, prior agreement by the country involved is required.

Article 4

Transportation, formalities and services connected with transit goods the shipment of which have been approved in advance by the two parties, will be subject to the following procedure:

A. Goods shipped by Soviet railways from Jolfa must be accompanied by bills of lading prepared in accordance with the agreement on direct rail connection between Iran and the Soviet Union. Such shipments should be addressed to the "Soyuztransit" in Soviet Jolfa. "Soyuztransit" will then forward them to either the exit points in the Soviet Union or to their final destinations in compliance with the instructions given in the bills of lading.

B. Regarding transportation of goods by ships from the Islamic Republic, "Soyuztransit" will take delivery of the goods at either Anzali or Nowshar and will then carry them, in accordance to instructions in their bills of lading to either an exit point in the Soviet Union or to their final destinations.

C. Export goods of the Islamic Republic of Iran, shipped in transit by trucks from Soviet Jolfa, Astara or Gaudan [sic], will be forwarded by "Soyuztransit" in accordance to the instructions given in their bills of lading, to exit points in the Soviet Union or to their final destinations.

D. Goods transported from a third country to the Islamic Republic of Iran by Soviet railways should be sent to the Soviet Jolfa railway station addressed to "Soyuztransit." "Soyuztransit" will then arrange for their shipment, according to their railroad bills of lading, to the Iranian Jolfa railway station.

E. Shipments sent by Soviet railways from a third country to the Islamic Republic of Iran through Gaudan [sic], should be dispatched to Eshqabad railway station, addressed to "Soyuztransit." "Soyuztransit" will then arrange for their shipment by trucks to Bajgiran, addressed to "Tarabari" which will deliver them to the customs.

F. Goods shipped from European ports destined for the Islamic Republic of Iran will be delivered to "Soyuztransit" in those ports with their bills of lading. The "Soyuztransit" will then arrange for their transit in the Soviet territory up to an entry point or one of the ports in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

G. Shipments sent on transit from the Islamic Republic of Iran via the Soviet Union to a third country must be accompanied by bills of lading that are prepared in accordance to the direct rail agreement between the two countries. These shipments should be dispatched by "Tarabari," addressed to the Iranian Jolfa railway station. "Tarabari" will arrange for their further transportation to one of the points mentioned in the "A" section of the second article of the agreement, or to the final destination as instructed in the bill of lading.

H. Goods dispatched from a third country to the Soviet Union via Iran, should be sent addressed to "Tarabari" in Khorramshahr, Bandar-e Khomeyni, Bushehr, Bandar

'Abbas and Zahedan. "Tarabari" will take delivery of the goods at the mentioned points in accordance to their bills of lading (in Zahedan, according to "proces-verbal," giving the number of bales and packages). They will later be shipped as per instructions by "Soyuztranzit" to Iranian Jolfa, port of Anzali, Nowshar, Iranian Astara or Bajgiran.

I. Goods shipped by the Soviet Union to a third country via Iran through ports of Anzali and Nowshahr could be sent to those places addressed to "Tarabari." "Tarabari" will then ship them in accordance to instructions in their bills of lading to one of the points mentioned in section "A" of article 2 of the treaty, or to the final destinations.

K. Goods transported from a third country directly in Soviet trucks without being loaded or unloaded in the USSR, will be addressed to "Tarabari" which will later perform the following actions in customs houses of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

Taking delivery of goods from the carrier and forwarding them to the consignees, in sealed condition, inspecting to insure that seals are not broken and the content is as described and registered in related documents.

9561

CSO: 4906

CHRISTIANS REFRAIN FROM OBSERVING CHRISTMAS

'Prayer for Victory'

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 1 Jan 81 p 4

[Text] Orumiyeh--ETTELA'AT correspondent--On Christmas, more than 8,000 of our Assyrian and Armenian compatriots assembled in Orumiyeh's four churches and in churches in villages around the city, singing Christmas carols and listening to the church bells ring in celebration of victory by Iran over the Iraqi mercenary forces.

In making the announcement, Catholic Bishop of Orumiyeh, Shamu'el said: "The bells of Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Adventist churches this year rang for a special Christmas service, while in churches in the rural areas prayers were said for victory of the fighting men." The bishop further said: "Because of the exceptional conditions in the country, this year Christmas celebrations by Assyrians and Armenians were not fully observed. They did not feel that it was proper to engage in festivities at a time when our Moslem compatriots at the fighting fronts were engaged in a struggle against falsehood and were losing their lives."

Bishop Shamu'el also said that Christians of Orumiyeh had collected 160,000 rials to help war victims and had deposited the amount in the special fund. He also added that they had been asked to warmly welcome the returning Assyrian and Armenian war victims to Orumiyeh.

In giving the statistics about our Catholic compatriots in Orumiyeh, he said there were 3,700 Christians living in the area. He also put the number of churches in Western Azarbaijan at 14, the oldest one being in "Gulan," which he said was more than 200 [as published] years old. The church in Salmas, which had been destroyed by an earthquake had been much older, he said.

The bishop of Orumiyeh noted that Sunday prayers were usually said for world peace but Christmas prayers were said for the victory of Iranian compatriots in their fight against Iraq, in which many had been martyred, including a number of Assyrians and Armenians.

In conclusion, the bishop in a message to his Catholic and Moslem compatriots said that protecting the country's independence and territorial integrity was a sacred duty of every Iranian. He also expressed hope for international peace and the success of Iranian religious leaders and the hard-working regional officials.

Assyrian Aid

Julius Petros, a leading member of the protestant church in Orumiyeh, said that Assyrian populated villages around Orumiyeh had, through their churches, given assistance to the war-stricken people. In addition, 100,000 rials in aid had been donated by Armenian and Assyrian dentists through the Armenian and Assyrian dioceses.

He also noted that this year Armenian and Assyrian minorities had cancelled their Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Miss Marianani, church singer and daughter of the priest of the "Mother Mary" church in Orumiyeh said: "Because of the exceptional conditions in our beloved country, and out of respect for the martyrs of Islam, our Christmas celebrations were cancelled this year and were limited to carol singing only. Prayers during religious ceremonies were said for victory of Iran. Armenians and Assyrians in Orumiyeh also cancelled their visit to one another during the Christmas season, and out of respect for the survivors of the war victims, New Year's celebrations will be cancelled also."

Armenians In Support of War Efforts

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 1 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] Esfahan--The office of the Armenian diocese in Julfa of Esfahan and south Iran in declaring that the Armenian Gregorian Church was not, in anyway, connected with the Catholic and Protestant Church, has issued the following announcement addressed to Iranian Armenians:

"As you all know, it is more than 3 months that our country has been in war. In the first weeks of the Iran-Iraq war, thousands of our Armenian brothers and sisters and other compatriots in the Province of Khuzestan have taken refuge in other parts of the country. Armenian soldiers have been fighting, alongside their Moslem brothers, in defense of the independence of the country and its territorial integrity. Armenians have, like before, performed their sacred duties to their beloved country and have helped our forces financially and individually."

Elsewhere in the announcement, it was declared: "At this time, when the war imposed on us is still continuing, continuation of the united efforts of the Armenian and Moslem brothers requires sacrifices. We therefore ask our coreligionists to refrain from observing Christmas and New Year celebrations and avoid extravagance. Celebrations should be based on traditional religious and church customs and [Christmas] gifts should be sent to the special group at the Vank church in Jolfa of Esfahan, set up to help war victims.

9561

CSO: 4906

ISRAEL

HISTADRUT REORGANIZATION PLANS ANNOUNCED, DISCUSSED

New Organizational Map

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Sep 80 p 8

[Article: "After Long Preparation, New Histadrut Organization Map Completed; In Effect--After Next Elections to Histadrut Conference; Proposed: Each Histadrut Member Will Belong to Workers' Council; Geographic Continuity Among All Settlements of Workers' Council; Combining Hired Workers and Settlers; Committees for Regional Cooperation to Be Expanded; 72 Workers' Councils Proposed"]

[Text] After long preparations, the "New Organizational Map of the Histadrut" was recently completed. The proposed map is the result of long studies which were conducted in recent years by the organization division and workers' councils, along with various groups which included rural organizations, workers' councils, and the plenum of the organization division, according to Aharon Har'el, the division chairman.

At the executive committee meeting on 31 August the division head announced that since the changes in the Histadrut organizational map can be implemented according to the Histadrut constitution only 3 months before the elections announcement, and since the elections have already been announced, the proposed reform will go into effect only after the next elections. The next elections, then, will proceed as usual. Hence, the rural workers will not participate this time in the elections to the workers' councils.

The planning of the new map is based on the decision of the 13th Histadrut Conference, which decided, among other things, that "every member of Histadrut will belong to the workers' council." According to Har'el, "this means that all settlements which until now did not belong to any workers' council will join the councils and will become an inseparable part of them. This applies especially to kibbutzim, moshavim, minority villages; and undefined settlements." Har'el added that "we will not relent in carrying out the reform after the upcoming elections for the Histadrut, since the question of cooperation between the settlements and the city workers is ideological, and is anchored in the decision of the Histadrut conference."

Geographical Continuity

Once implemented, this organizational reform will change the geographical area of most workers' councils in Israel.

Two principles have guided the planners of the reform:

Creating clearly defined geographical continuity among all the settlements in each workers' council.

Seeing to it that in areas which have many settlements of rural workers, the proposed integration will not radically change the proportion between hired workers and settlers.

The implementation of the reform will not stop the activities of the committees for regional cooperation, which encompass all the settlements in a given area and which were established recently with a concerted effort. Those committees were set up to deal with matters which an individual workers' council could not deal with. Integrating the rural workers in the regional committees provided great impetus and created closer relations between the hired workers from the city and the members of kibbutzim and moshavim.

Integrating the Minorities

"The proposed reform," according to Har'el "is designed to integrate the Arab and Druse sectors in the Histadrut. In some minority villages, workers' committees or workers' councils will be established, as needed. Some will be included in existing workers' councils and will be integrated in the regional committees in their area."

During the deliberations prior to the drawing of the map, the possibility of combining certain contiguous councils was discussed. In the organization division's opinion, it would have benefited the system by pooling resources and avoiding duplication, especially in small settlements. But the proposal encountered difficulties and was tabled.

A brochure was prepared in which all the organizational reform's proposals are discussed in detail.

Also Beyond the Green Line

The first chapter of the brochure (published by the organization division and the workers' councils in May 1980) lists 72 councils throughout Israel, which include over 800 settlements of all kinds, including minority settlements. In each council the various possibilities of settlement combinations are presented, those which are in the council and those which are suggested for inclusion. The chart defines each settlement and gives the numbers of eligible voters in each as of the Histadrut elections in 1977. It should be mentioned that according to the reform, councils will be established beyond the green line as well, in Yamit and in the Golan Heights.

The second chapter of the brochure includes the lists of Arab and Druse workers' committees which will be set up this year as a result of the proposed organizational reform. The workers' committees in the minorities sector will number one per settlement or one per several settlements, depending on their size and geographical proximity. The proposal includes workers' committees which will encompass 37 settlements.

Pooling Resources

The third chapter of the brochure deals with the committees for regional cooperation. It proposes 11 such committees throughout Israel. The proposal specifies which workers' councils and which regional councils (municipal) will be represented in each committee and where they will be located.

The chairman of the organization division sees the reform as a revolutionary change which will strengthen the Histadrut by increasing cooperation and pooling resources among all members in all forms of settlement.

Integrating Division Proposed

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Sep 80 p 8

[Article: "New Organizational Reform Will Encompass All Minority Settlements"]

[Text] As part of the new "organizational map" and the reform to follow it, an "integration plan" for the Arab and Druse sector was worked out. According to the plan, in the first stage the Arab division in the executive committee will be eliminated and all Arab settlements will function independently, either in a workers' committee or a workers' council, or will be included in existing workers' councils. In place of the Arab division, an integrating division will be established. Its main purpose will be to speed up the implementation of the plan to integrate the minorities in the Histadrut in a more active way. The implementation of the plan depends on the general organizational reform which will go into effect after the upcoming Histadrut elections.

Ya'akov Kohen, chairman of the Arab division, considers the plan a turning of the corner and the beginning of a new way. "The activity of the new division will focus on overseeing the integration of the Arab members in the overall systems of the Histadrut," he explains.

Cooperatives and Sports

The integrating division will monitor the integration of the Arab members in the mixed workers' councils and will see to it that they become part of the general activities of the councils and get their share in the budgets and in the programs.

The 204 Arab cooperatives in the various industries will be transferred, according to the proposal, to the center of the corporation, to the agricultural center, and to the appropriate control bodies. In the first stage the division will help these cooperatives to become acquainted with the new material and will work toward complete transfer of the cooperatives to the above bodies.

The sports activities of the Hapo'el sports club, which were handled until now by the division, will be transferred gradually to the district offices of Hapo'el to strengthen the tie between the Arab and Jewish local sports clubs.

The integrating division will take steps to bring into the regional cooperation committees which have been and will be established according to the new organizational map the district offices of the division in western Galilee, Nazareth, the "Triangle," and the Negev. Six more workers' committees will be established by the end of 1980. Thus, the division will have integrated 107,000 Arab members out of 140,000, or 70 percent of the Arab and Druse members.

Plants and Publications

The division will see to it that the workers will activate the Arab section by building industrial plants in or near Arab settlements.

In order to bolster the Histadrut in Arab areas the division will build five or six additional Histadrut centers in the large villages (to date only seven Histadrut centers have been built).

The division will strengthen the ideological and cultural activity through joint programs with the culture and education center with the idea of eventually transferring to the center all cultural and educational activities in minority sectors.

In order to deepen the awareness of the Histadrut and its values among the Arab and Druse members, a monthly newsletter will be issued, entitled "With the Histadrut." It will include information on the activities of the Histadrut, and will be sent free to active members. In addition, cooperation with NA'AMAT will increase, to expand the work among Arab and Druse groups.

Scholarships for Students

Hano'ar Ha'oved ve HoLomed Center (the Working, Studying Youth) will expand its activities in all 15 branches in the Arab and Druse sector and will earmark resources to help activate the 6,000 Arab and Druse members in the movement.

Student activities, according to Ya'aqov Kohen, are of special importance. The Histadrut provides 300 scholarships to Arab and Druse students each year. However, "we are facing a problem," the division chairman says. RAKAH (the communist party) sends 50 students with scholarships to study in Eastern Europe each year. The students become radicalized and come back and work against peaceful coexistence. The division, therefore, is going to ask economic bodies of the Histadrut to adopt two or three students each by giving them full scholarships, and make an effort to find work for them. In this way, Kohen says, we will bring the students closer to the Histadrut, and they will be able to find employment and be part of the Histadrut.

The committee expressed concern over the recent radical trend of the Arab and Druse sector.

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ISRAEL

NATIONAL BANK PLANS TO BUILD A COMPUTER CENTER

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT 21 Dec 80 p 14

[Article by Avraham Dishon: "Bank Leumi Will Build A Giant Computer Center In Petah Tikva"]

[Text] The management of Bank Le'umi has recently decided to build a new computer center, which would be the first of its kind in Israel, and would be able to serve simultaneously all the branches of the bank in Israel and abroad.

The new center would probably be built across from Belinson hospital in Petah Tikva, on land owned by the investment firm Avnat. The Avnat Company is jointly owned by the construction company Ezorim, the supermarket chain Supersol, and the investment firm Oz owned by the businessman Gershon Rozov.

The negotiations with the Avnat company are in an advanced stage and might even be concluded within a few days.

The new project would be planned by the architect Ya'acov Rehter. At this stage it is estimated that the building would occupy an area of 45,000 square meters, and the expected investment for the building would be over 100 million Shekels in today's prices. It is possible that the Ezorim company would do the construction work, and the work would last about 2 years at least.

When finished, the computer center would be the largest and the most advanced in the country.

Shmuel Dovner, the president of the Ezorim company, and the vice-president of the Klal company would not comment on the project, but it was informed that the board of directors of Bank Le'umi has approved the project in principle and is negotiating with the Avnat company.

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KOOR PLANS TO TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Dec 80 p 8

[Article By Ya'acov Hacohen: "The Israeli Exporter Neglected The Latin American Market"]

[Text] The managers of the Koor Latin America Company think that Israeli industry has so far neglected the Latin American market, and that the Israeli exporter is unaware of the possibilities available in this market.

The company which presented the Latin American market as the chief target in its plans for next year, and which is now making efforts to get into this market, will in 1981 export to that continent merchandise worth \$15 million, which constitutes 20 percent of Israel's industrial export. The president of the company, Beni Yanai, said yesterday in a Tel Aviv press conference, that in 5 years he expects the company's trade in these countries to equal \$100 million in current trade. Koor Latin America has its main office in Mexico, and it has branches in six more countries in the continent: Costa Rica, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

Amir Segev, the president of the Alba Company, which also belongs to the Koor group, said that Koor sees as its duty not only the advancement of industrial exports, but also the initiation of joint industrial and agricultural projects, in cooperation with local groups in those countries, in order to build local factories which would use Israeli base products and Israeli expertise.

The underlying assumption is that today the Latin American continent is ready to absorb most of Israel's industrial export products, from telecommunication and industrial and agricultural mechanization products to textile exports. More than 80 Israeli exporters took part recently in an industrial fair in Chile, which was organized by Koor Trade. From initial reports it is known that they got initial orders worth \$200,000.

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SAMARITANS FACE HOUSING PROBLEMS

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Dec 80 p 4

[Article: "The Samaritans Face A Severe Housing Shortage"]

[Text] The leaders of the Samaritan community complained in an interview with MA'ARIV correspondent that a severe housing shortage prevents the development of the Samaritan community in Israel.

According to them, 60 families of young couples, some in Holon and some in Shekhem, have been waiting for years for the solution of their housing problem. The lack of proper housing prevents the formation of new families and the expansion of existing families, and as a result the birth rate of the Samaritan community does not rise.

Half of the Samaritan community, about 250 people, live in Holon. The Ministry of Housing has a plan to build two houses with 32 apartment units each near the Samaritan community in Holon. The price of every apartment (size: 83 square meters) is 300,000 Shekels. The Samaritans ask the Ministry of Housing to take their problems into considerations and increase the amount of mortgage money. They stress that they are not asking for any grant.

In Shekhem there is also housing shortage.

Delegations composed of the leaders of the community met recently with King Husayan, the Jordanian minister for West Bank affairs, and Jordan's information minister, and asked their help in locating a cite for a housing project for their community and in financing the project. They got a negative answer as far as the financial aid was concerned.

The king agreed in principle to the construction of the houses on the cites in the Rafidia district.

After their request was granted, the leaders of the Samaritan community in Shekhem contacted the military authorities asking for a building permit. The military authorities answered that "they are examining the matter."

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CSO: 4805

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RECORD REVIEWED, ASSESSED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 80 p 6

[Article by Yisra'el 'Inbari: "Our Agriculture This Year: Harvest of Records in Shadow of Serious Crises; Good Rains--the Best 'Grant ; Wheat Harvest Up 150 Percent; Citrus Fruit Profitable; Poor Summer Fruit Harvest; Why Tomato Shortage in Spring; World Record in Milk Production; Prospects of Poultry"]

[Text] Israel's agriculture is well established. It shows great vitality and resourcefulness in withstanding serious economic crises--this is the conclusion we arrived at after speaking with Mr Ya'aqov Sagiv, director of professional and guidance services of the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as with other division heads in the main sectors of agricultures, about agriculture in 1979-80.

The talk was mostly about professional aspects, and only in part about economic subjects.

Unusually Good Rains

It is preferable to start with good news. Mr Sagiv began by praising the year's rains, which replenished the water sources and spared us the problem of the constant depletion of water. Ground water was increased substantially. Reservoirs were filled up. The soaked ground yielded abundant crops. The farmers report a 150 percent rise in wheat yield over last year. The saturated ground also promised successful summer crops. Cotton looks promising. Fodder was plentiful. Sorghum became acclimated in the sowing cycle. This is only to mention a few of the "grants" which the farmers received thanks to the good rains of last winter.

Naturally, the heavenly blessing was accompanied by calamities, such as storms and hail which caused damages. Still, a rainy year, despite its damages, is preferable to a year of drought.

Citrus Fruit Is Profitable

Citrus fruit, the chief export and the leading item in agriculture, has been subject to economic ups and downs for many years, but according to Mr Nadav Ravid, head of the citrus fruit division in the Ministry of Agriculture, it is a steady source of income.

The year was also good for citrus fruit. The growers received better pay. The payment system (a problem in the past) has improved, and, most important, crops kept improving. Good growers get an additional 300 kilograms of grapefruit per dunam, as a national average, and the Shamuti crops improve as well. This trend will continue, according to our source, thanks to better growing methods. Irrigation has improved, packaging was modernized, and last but not least, easily peeled strains have good future prospects (because of the rise of the standard of living in Europe, customers prefer easily peeled citrus fruit which does not interfere with watching television). The pay for this kind is good, and, in short, Mr Ravid concludes, this is a success story.

One should not, of course, ignore the serious problems of growing citrus fruit--the cost of water, which is the main factor. The "grove beards" and the marginal sections are also a serious problem for the growers, but, all in all, Ravid reiterates, citrus fruit is well established, and lately there is a shift from uprooting to planting.

High and Low in Winter Fruit

Unlike citrus fruit, other fruit is highly unstable, easily affected by changes in the weather and other natural factors. The avocado, for instance, which has been lucrative for several years and has reached record crops and profit this year, is expected to have a bad year in 1980-81 (only one-third of last year), all because of one extremely hot day which damaged the ripening and blossoming.

Mr Yonatan Shaulsky, head of the non-citrus fruit division, tells us that shifts in weather have been hard on summer fruit, more so than usual. Pears were down 75 percent, and apples 20 percent. Peaches were also down, with 500 dunams damaged. Grapes were up, and olives, for canning and oil, were abundant.

Vegetables--the Most Unstable

Consumers have little interest in the production process and the problems of producers, and are upset when there is a certain shortage and when the price skyrockets. Many have asked why there was a shortage of tomatoes in the spring and early summer, not recalling that not so long ago tomatoes were only available in the summer, and only because of new production technology (mainly sheltered growing) have we grown used to year-round supply.

Mr Hanan Geisenberg, assistant director of the vegetables division in the Ministry of Agriculture, answers this question. He attributes the problem to overabundance of rain and strong winds which affected the sensitive plants and caused the shortage.

But the main reason for the decline in regular production is the reduction in number of producers because of the high cost of sowing and planting. Thus, the cost of fabric to cover hothouses has doubled, fuel keeps going up, interest is high, etc. This raises the fear of failure and discourages many growers.

Mr Geisenberg and his colleagues point out technological achievements in growing vegetables, watering, fertilizing, sanitary control, etc.

Conclusion: vegetables are far from stable, and it is vital for the consumer, the producer and the economy (especially for export purposes) to stabilize it.

Israeli Cow--World Champion

Cattle is one of the main farm industries (the late (Hertzfeld's) famous saying was: "Without living beings there is no life in the farm"). There has been a revolution in this industry since the elimination of all subsidies.

Mr Binyamin Lev, head of the cattle division, who is well versed in the subject, says that during the last 3 years there has been a drop of 15 percent in milk production, despite the growth of the population. Many dairy farms, mostly family owned, stopped working. The high price of milk, and producer's profits still keep up with the rise in the cost of living. Yet other dairy products are affected, as seen by the surplus of butter and cheese in the farms. The reason for surplus is the drop in consumption by a large segment of the population which now considers these things a luxury.

Mr Lev points out the amazing productivity of the Israeli cow, which gave a national average of 8,000 liters of milk this year, a world record. To dramatize the figure, Mr Lev points out that there is a difference of 1,000 liters a year between our champion and that of European countries and the United States. Credit is due to the grower as well as the scientist, whose joint efforts have made the Israeli cow a record holder and a sought after item abroad.

Achievements and Problems in Poultry

Poultry, which is second only to citrus fruit, has been undergoing many difficulties for several years. Here, too, production has fallen, as in dairy farming, because of the elimination of subsidies. The Israeli public has grown accustomed to high consumption of eggs and poultry, in which we have nearly achieved a world record. But the rising cost of these products has affected consumption, which has gone down considerably. In 1979-80, the national quota of eggs was 1.3 billion, as compared to 1.4 billion 2 years ago. Fattened fowl reached 130,000 tons this year, and turkey 45,000. How does this relate to the producer?

Dr Barukh Shalev, deputy head of the poultry division, says that fattened fowl production shifted from the moshav to the kibbutz, because of the latter's greater stability and more advanced technology.

As for egg production, Dr Shalev says that there has been a shift from the coast to the mountain settlements.

The problem of surplus is severe, with a surplus of 70 million eggs, especially since chicken feed is imported. This is not a new problem, but it is getting worse with inflation. With diminishing returns and produce surplus, every means of improving production is vital. There have been many achievements in this area, we are told. The cost of feeding was lowered, and egg laying has risen.

As for the chronic problem of egg surpluses, we are told that the responsible authorities are about to offer a solution by putting regional groups in charge of monitoring production quotas.

As the harvest holiday approaches, we have singled out some examples of our agricultural achievements, without overlooking natural setbacks and the limitations of man. Agriculture is a foundation of our culture, not only economically but also socially. Our deepest thanks to the farmers.

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CSO: 4805

BRIEFS

TADIRAN EXPORTS UNMANNED AIRCRAFT--On the occasion of the police chief, Hertzef Shafir, visit to Tadiran, the personnel and administration manager, Yitzhak Dagan, reported that the Tadiran company exports small unmanned planes and sophisticated communication equipment to foreign armies. The total production of the company this year totals \$110 million, and next year will reach \$150 million. Half of the production goes to foreign exports. Dagan also said that 60 percent of Tadiran products were developed by the research and development department, which employs about 3000 workers. Dagan reported a long list of countries to which Tadiran exports its products, and described the difficulties involved, due to competition and to restrictive political factors. [Text] [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR 15 Dec 80 p 8] 9433

PRC, ISRAEL EXCHANGE TECHNICIANS--The Kunaiti newspaper AL-QABAS claims that several Israeli technicians are now in China, and that several technicians from communist China are now in Israel, following the decision of the two nations to enhance their cooperation in the areas of military technology and trade. In a communique from Washington which is based on "a knowledgeable source," it was said that according to the agreement between Peking and Jerusalem, China would supply Israel with coal in exchange for American electronic equipment, such as radar and communication systems and computer systems. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Dec 80 p 12] 9433

CSO: 4805

NEW LAW CALLS FOR LONGER MILITARY SERVICE, POSSIBLE CALL-UP OF WOMEN

Jiddah AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWWARAH in Arabic 23 Dec 80 p 19

[Article by Kamil Hazir: "New Compulsory Service Law in Kuwait"]

[Text] After several weeks of sessions, the Kuwaiti Supreme Defense Council, chaired by His Highness Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, has approved a new law for compulsory and reserve military service which contains significant changes with respect to the length of compulsory service as defined by the law now in effect, which was issued in 1976.

The new law makes the university graduate's length of service one year, instead of 9 months, and two years without exception for non-university graduates, instead of 12 months for public secondary school graduates and 18 months for the unqualified.

Should it be necessary in the future to call up women to participate with men in national military service, the new law contains an article stipulating that by amiri decree Kuwaiti citizens may be assigned to military service in accordance with their natures, provided that the Kuwaiti is no younger than 18 years and no older than 30 years.

Compulsory service is applicable to every Kuwaiti who has reached the age of 18 and who is no older than 30 years, except for special cases defined by the bill, which exempts persons suffering from a disease or infirmity which prevents them from performing compulsory military service. Also exempted are only sons, or the only son of a father or a mother, and whoever has only one brother who is stricken with a disease which prevents him from working. Also exempted are the oldest service-age sons of military personnel, conscripts or reservists who died or who were discharged for illness, injury or infirmity resulting from and caused by military service.

The new law also provides that compulsory service include a military training period and service in one of the units. With respect to draftees who possess rare specializations, a decree may be issued by the defense minister determining which groups they will be assigned to and how they are to perform their compulsory service, so as to enable them to perform their duties in sensitive facilities.

The new bill stipulates that 2 months will be added to the compulsory service of whoever is tardy in presenting himself to his conscription branch on the appointed date, and a 6-month suspension to whoever fails to respond to the summons.

If the draftee signs up of his own accord within 15 days of the expiration of the period set for enrolling in service, the additional period will be reduced to 2 months.

The bill confirms the existing clauses pertaining to retaining one's job during his stay in actual service, as well as one's raises and promotions being retained and incorporated into the pension and stipends. It also reaffirms that the draftee's being in service shall not prevent his appointment to any position or job, and that whoever completes his military service because of war, general mobilization or martial law can be retained. In general, the new law contains several regulatory and procedural articles all of which resulted from past experience in applying compulsory conscription and which deal with all the difficulties and problems which necessitated the review of the entire existing law and the issuance of a new law.

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CSO: 4802

IDDIH LOOKS TO EUROPE FOR HELP IN SOLVING LEBANESE CRISIS

London AL-KAWADITH in Arabic 9 Jan 81 pp 12-14

[Interview with Raymond Iddih, conducted by 'Adil Malik; date and place not given]

[Text] The hard thing about interviewing Dean Raymond Iddih is that one has a real dialog with him, not just a one-sided monologue.

Iddih has firm, fixed opinions which have not changed since the Arabs and the world began fighting on Lebanese soil. Whatever information he has he brings forth in response to any question put to him. In his opinions about the general Lebanese situation, he is still following the same line he has followed up til now. His opinion of parties and personages is the same, expressed with more of the caustic manner of speech which is so characteristic of him and which is sometimes so hard to publish word for word.

His stands on the Phalangist party, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, and Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil are all the same. His stand on Syria, President Hafiz al-Asad, and the role of the Syrian forces in Lebanon are just as they were.

The dean is making diplomatic efforts outside Lebanon for the sake of Lebanon touring world capitals and decision-making centers to explain the Lebanese problem. His latest endeavor was to convince the nine Common Market states to establish an independent European force which would be dispatched to South Lebanon, to replace the international forces which have failed to carry out their role. Nevertheless, he is still convinced of the benefit of the international forces.

At one time he was optimistic about a solution to the crisis in Lebanon, but he soon retreated from this optimism. As he sees it, the picture remains gloomy, and the conspiracy is continuing!

Are these facts? Or are they deductions by the dean? They are facts, analyses and deductions all at once.

In spite of Iddih's reactions to some of the questions which we repeatedly put to him, his speech remained characterized by his own special flavor, whether I agreed with him in al' or some of his opinions or disagreed.

Here follows the text of this interview with Raymond Iddih, conducted during his recent visit to London.

[Question] After your recent trips to the United States, the Vatican, Austria and Britain, has there been any change in your conception of Lebanon's future?

[Answer] The situation will not change, since I have not felt or been convinced that there is a new policy with respect to Lebanon. By policy I mean the policy of America and the other states concerned with what is happening in our country. In fact, I have noticed nothing of the sort so far, inasmuch as Israel remains in Lebanese territory via Sa'd Haddad, and Syria remains as well, under whatever guise.

I went to the Vatican, America and Vienna, where I met with Chancellor Kreisky. Here in London I met with senior Foreign Ministry officials (Douglas Heard). I did all of this because I, as a deputy, am obliged to defend Lebanon. But what I heard and sensed does not greatly encourage optimism. We are now suffering from numerous problems, one of which is the Arab community, of which we are a part. I have become completely convinced that the Arab community is delighted with what has happened in Lebanon, because this community has always wanted Lebanon to be the only field of battle so as to keep such an atmosphere away from these other states. We are the little brother of this family, and the big brothers are happy that calamity has befallen the poor little one, because he is unable to act in any way. As you know, neither the big brother or the other Arab states have thought of helping out, or even saying, "Spare this poor country!"

Last year at the Tunis meeting the Arab states resolved to allocate aid for Lebanon. Yesterday I learned that several of these states are begging off, saying frankly that they are unable to meet their commitments. What do you think of this family, in which one brother doesn't even think of his other brother? This is one of the major problems from which we are suffering.

The second problem is that America has not yet determined its Lebanon policy. A short while ago I went to the United States, after Ronald Reagan's presidential victory, and met with some of the employees in his administration. But I didn't see anything contrary to what I had been convinced of. I had initially feared that Kissinger would be appointed secretary of state, but I learned that this was absolutely out of the question; that he might be assigned to special missions only. As you know, the secretary of state there is not like some of our own ministers, who are appointed to the government and accept the idea that others will perform their functions. The secretary there watches out for his department and its honor. Remember the battle between Secretary of State Edmond Muskie and National Security Advisor Brzezinski? The latter would receive politicians and consult with them about current problems, but Muskie stepped in to make him understand his duties and bring him within bounds. Now you ask me what will happen? I say in short that I don't know. But in Lebanon everything is possible. They might give part of Lebanon to Israel, or one part to Israel and another part to Syria. But so far, I cannot be absolutely certain what might happen. Some of our brothers are convinced that Reagan doesn't need to go along with anyone, such as the Zionist lobby for instance, because the number of votes he won makes him subject to no one. This is good, and we hope that he can become free of Jewish control.

[Question] How do you explain the welcome some Lebanese groups showed for Reagan's victory?

[Answer] Don't you know the Phalangists? They welcome anyone who wins. But the American is against anything which might be termed Nazi or dictatorial. So how can this American president reach an understanding with the Phalangists? A while ago I read a ridiculous item in one of the papers, in which a Phalangist official said that Reagan has to cooperate with the Phalangists. He did not advise the Phalangists to cooperate with Reagan, but advised Reagan to cooperate with them. Also, a while ago I saw a television debate between Pierre al-Kumayyil and my friend Sa'ib Salam, in which al-Jumayyil told Salam, "How can you accuse me of operating with Israel?" He also asked, "Whom does Sa'ib Salam represent in the Arab world?" Sa'ib Bey answered, "What do I do? I represent many devout Moslems. I represent more people than you do."

[Question] What do you think the situation in Lebanon will be with the new administration of American President Ronald Reagan?

[Answer] In spite of the circumstances, I hope that there will be some positive developments during Reagan's term, provided that the Lebanese administration acts. Four years ago I said the same thing to the president of the republic, and when he visited Paris I repeated these words to him: "Nowadays foreign ministers don't act like they once did; the presidents themselves are the ones who act and move around and deal with their country's problems themselves. For example, about every 2 weeks Giscard d'Estaing visits one of the towns to deal with some pending problems. Why don't you go to the Vatican or to Moscow, or Washington, or to any other European capital?" He said that he didn't like this method; that he leaves each person free to act according to his nature. But it is crucial that he act now, with the establishment of the new American administration. I am acting now, because they are not. Ghassan Tuwayni is the only person doing what he can, but unfortunately they lessen his impetus many times, for reasons I don't understand. This is the tribulation of every employee. I am not an employee, and when I visit an official I tell him what has to be said, what cannot be said by any ambassador even if he holds the same opinions as I do. Many times in the past, I have noticed the appearance of a new phenomenon which we must make use of--the phenomenon of the European nations. At their recent meetings, these states have passed noteworthy resolutions regarding Lebanon--"the need to preserve the unity, territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon within internationally accepted limits." The statement about Lebanon's unity deserves special attention, because of the existence of some parties which want to partition Lebanon. This expression was used again in the recent meeting held in Luxembourg. This is a very positive element which must be employed to our benefit.

[Question] What are these words worth, compared to what is going on in Lebanon?

[Answer] Nothing. Everything uttered in parliament is nothing but words; ultimately, implementation is in the hands of the executive authority. But when such words are repeated and heard from more than one direction, they may influence the executive authority. Who is the executive authority? Maybe the Security Council. We have gone to the Security Council, but right now we must act on the level of the superpowers in this council, such as France, Britain or the others, so as to achieve our demands. What is required is action, brother.

[Question] Therefore, you are reiterating your demand that President Sarkis do something to change the situation?

[Answer] I don't believe he will act. Whoever has not acted before will not act now.

[Question] Does the situation have to remain as it is, dependent on the will of God?

[Answer] This is a matter of temperament. For example, it is very significant that the European states demanded that the international peace-keeping forces carry out the duty assigned to them in the south. This is a confession by them that the duty has not been carried out at all.

[Question] Of what practical use is the recent renewal of the peace-keeping forces' mission, in light of these forces' failure?

[Answer] I first addressed this matter in 1964, observing that there was a danger that al-Wazzani would be handed over to Israel. Now it has happened; they have taken al-Wazzani. I should open a fortune-telling booth! The second time, they accused me of treachery when I asked for international forces. These forces spent 10 years in Egypt, with the approval of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. If 'Abd al-Nasir was a traitor, I should be glad to be a traitor too, and be compared with a person like Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. These forces are still in Egypt now, during the era of Anwar al-Sadat, and they are in Syria during the era of President al-Asad. Why is Lebanon the only unfortunate one? Why isn't Lebanon entitled to protect itself by means of international forces, when there are other, stronger countries which are so entitled?

[Question] How much is the role played by the international forces in Lebanon worth?

[Answer] First of all, I would like to ask you something. If the international forces were withdrawn from the south today, what would prevent Israel from reaching the Litani? You also know what happened on 15 May 1978, when Israeli forces smashed South Lebanon with American planes, tanks and weapons. The Israeli army only needed half a day to reach the Litani, but it took them 3 days, in the course of which they demolished some Shi'ite villages and expelled thousands of Shi'ite Moslems. Without the international forces, the number of refugees might have been double, they might have died of famine, or they might not have dared to return to their villages.

[Question] But in spite of the presence of the international forces, Israel still occupies some territory, and is gradually nibbling away at other parts of the south.

[Answer] The benefit of having the international forces is that it took Israel a long time to reach the Litani. I remember when the Israeli forces penetrated to the Litani and cut off more than 220,000 people. It took us more than 2 nights to reach our friends in the Security Council to get them to prevent Israel from realizing its old dream, dating back to 1919, which says that Israel's northern borders are at the Litani. Israel wants to stay there because it wants territory and water.

[Question] But the international forces are there to protect Israel in one way or another.

[Answer] Good. But what we must say is that Israel does not need the international forces; we need them, and they will protect us first if only we know how to act. We did not ask for the international forces when they entered Lebanon, because Syria rejected the idea, wanting the battle to continue in Lebanon and not the Golan Heights. I believe in these forces because I have no other alternative; they are a firm force

the likes of which we do not have. I say that these forces are essential. The proof is that President Hafiz al-Asad is unhesitatingly renewing their stay and is asking them to protect his country. I don't feel that they are there to protect Israel; I say that they have been in Golan since 1973 in the interest of Syria. How could Syria accept them if this were to Israel's benefit?

[Question] But Israel does what it wants in South Lebanon, in spite of the international forces.

[Answer] Do you think that you have discovered something new?

[Question] I haven't discovered anything new. I am repeating this question because I am not convinced by the answer. Of what practical use are the international forces?

[Answer] Chassan Tuwayni recently asked that these forces be renewed for only 3 months, instead of 6 months. I believe that he feels that to ask for 6 months would not meet with the Security Council's approval. The Security Council doesn't want to renew the international forces for another 6 months, but they raised no objections to renewing the forces in Syria for the same period, for the fourth or fifth time.

[Question] But the international forces in Sinai and the Golan Heights are not exposed to what the forces in Lebanon are. Here they are forced into being a party in the Lebanese game, at least in the name of self-defense.

[Answer] If my memory serves me right, in Tunis the Arab League passed a resolution permitting the Palestinians to undertake certain activities in Arab territory, except for Egypt, of course. In Lebanon we have allowed this ever since 1969. Can you explain to me why the other Arab states have not allowed the Palestinians to use their neighboring territory for such operations? They don't dare use Syrian or Jordanian territory, because they are afraid of entering into armed confrontations with the Syrian and Jordanian governments.

[Question] In short, you still feel that the presence of the international forces is extremely necessary, and that their withdrawal might lead to greater danger.

[Answer] Yes, I feel that they are essential. I, just like the European states in Luxembourg, want these forces to carry out their assigned task.

[Question] But if they wanted to carry out the task required of them, this would mean that they would have to become a fighting army.

[Answer] If you go back to Resolution 426 and study it carefully, you will see that for the first time the expression "self-defense" is used. For example, I am sitting here, and you point a gun at me. I have the right to shoot you immediately, just like you see in the cowboy movies--the one who draws his gun first wins over the second one. In the resolution there is reference to this situation, implying that the international forces might find themselves in a self-defense situation.

[Question] Why wasn't the resolution implemented?

[Answer] There were no orders. The existing leadership is not issuing orders, because Carter's Washington is controlled by the Zionist lobby. In the agreement between the two, we are here and that's all there is to it.

[Here the dean pulled a file on South Lebanon out of his briefcase and took out a map, spread it on the table, and started to explain it.] This is a United Nations map showing the location of all its forces--Senegal, Fiji, Ghana, and Ireland. See this red line on the map? Some time ago I said that this area would fall into Israel's grip, that Israel would take some southern territory. The international forces are in these areas, but they are not present in other parts of the south.

[Question] Why not?

[Answer] If the Lebanese government doesn't understand the story, why should I?

[Question] Why doesn't the Security Council give the instructions the international forces need to play their role?

[Answer] I tell you that the conspiracy against us is continuing. The fault I find with the Carter administration is that in spite of Kissinger, whom I accuse of working to Cyprusize Lebanon and to settle the Palestinians in Lebanese territory... I don't think that day will come for another 2 years or more. Look at the map. Sa'd Haddad is here, and here are the Norwegian forces. The distance between them is 3 kilometers. I say that Israel will drill a tunnel, perhaps using laser beams, to get the Litani waters. Who will stand up to this?

[Question] What about Lebanese national security--the army and its role in this phase?

[Answer] When I began my campaign against the Deuxieme Bureau, I showed them on the map that parts of Lebanon were missing. Who made the map? The Lebanese army. I understand that in every country of the world there are military zones, where signs are posted prohibiting traffic and photographs. But here they don't put up anything--they just leave certain parts off the map, as if, when they did so, these areas would never again be part of Lebanon. When I unleashed my campaign, which lasted from 1964 until just recently, they sent me a map from Beirut. What did I discover? I discovered that they had put a Phoenician boat right over the area east of Dayr Mimas and south of Balat Dukhan al-Sur. They drew me a picture of a port, any port. At least, if they had drawn the port of Tyre, we could say that this is a part of the south! There is a line from al-Rashidiyah, south al-Bazuriyah, and Dab'al, going north to Niha, east to Dayr Mimas, then up to Marj 'uyun, turning south to Balat, passing through al-Habariyah, and ending north of Shaba'a. This means that the entire area south of Shab'a', Balat, Marj 'uyun, Dayr Mimas and al-Bazuriyah is left out of the map. Today, we see that the Israeli forces and Sa'd Haddad are in the vicinity of the red line.

Now, how do we prevent Israel from making tunnels and diverting Litani water? I am telling you, with a frankness with which no one else will ever speak to you, neither president of the republic nor foreign minister, that the president of the republic has to speak up, because he is responsible above all others. He is the one who took the constitutional oath, although in Shtawrah. I am doing what I can, but in what capacity? I am a deputy, not a foreign minister. This does not mean that I am seeking the presidency or the ministry.

What I am trying to do now is convince the European states to form a European force and send it to the area. It is not urgent that the Security Council order the international forces to implement Resolution 426. But the problem is that we are still under the Carter administration; the Reagan administration has not begun, and has no constitutional rights. All we want is for Reagan to have a South Lebanon policy different from Carter's policy.

Then, once the necessary stand is taken towards Israel, there will be no excuse for the Palestinians to stay in the south. Of course, Abu 'Ammar will say, "I am in the south in accordance with the Cairo agreement." This is true, and therefore I have repeatedly asked the Lebanese government to abrogate the Cairo agreement, because it has become incompatible not only with the truce agreement but also with Resolutions 425 and 426. This is the first point.

Secondly, the Cairo agreement must be revoked so that Israel will have no opportunity to continue making excuses about protecting its security against the Palestinians in the south.

Thirdly, Syria must withdraw the Syrian army. But today I will speak only of the Palestinians' interests. I, as a Lebanese, want a Palestinian homeland to be established, maybe even more so than some Palestinians do. There is perhaps a large number of Palestinians who have changed their tune, and are saying, "We want to stay here. Where do you want us to go? To Galilee? We own nothing in Galilee. We don't want to return to Jordan. We don't want to go back to Syria." And so forth. As a Lebanese, it is in my interest that a Palestinian homeland be founded, even if 100,000 Palestinians stay in Lebanon, so that they will have the same rights and duties as any other Arab (Syrian, Egyptian, or Jordanian).

As for the excuse repeated by Israel, adopted by Carter, and promoted by the Zionist lobby--that a Palestinian homeland in Palestine, i.e. in the West Bank, would become a Soviet base--my response to this logic is that the Iraqi-Iranian war has placed Hafiz al-Asad in a special kind of isolation. Why? Because some Arab countries (Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait) have decided to help Iraq because it is part of the Arab league. This is only natural. In addition, "We have finished with the Egypt of Camp David." President al-Asad, who until just recently refused to sign a treaty with the Soviet Union, was forced to sign a treaty with Moscow this time. According to what we read in the papers, true or false I don't know, there are now 10,000 Soviet experts in Syria. Naturally, they are not cotton or olive experts. It is certain that the Soviets have sent modern arms, such as SAM 7's, 8's and 9's, because the SAM 6's are no good against Phantoms. It is certain that the Soviet experts, and even the Syrian military experts, are assuming the likelihood of an Israeli attack. In this case, the first line of defense, along which these rockets will have to be positioned, is Jabal Lubnan, starting at Jezzín, Baruk and al-'Aqurah and ending at the Cedars. I am not a military man, but I advised President Hafiz al-Asad to do this, because between Israel and Hafiz al-Asad, al-Asad is to be preferred, just between you and me, on the condition that he withdraws from Lebanon. The second line of defense will be the eastern mountains, from Jabal al-Shaykh to above Ba'labbak. For this reason, O Americans and Europeans, you don't want to open the way to establishing a Palestinian homeland on Israel's borders, fearing that it will become a Soviet base. But the Soviet base has already arrived. Two years ago I said that if American policy continues in this direction, Syria will become the Cuba of the Middle East. And

today you cannot say that Syria is far away. Syria is not remote, because it borders on Israel. Therefore, the excuse used by Israel and its supporters to oppose the establishment of the Palestinian state has finally fallen through.

[Question] If the Security Council does not request the peace-keeping forces to perform the role required of them, and if the Lebanese authorities do not declare the annulment of the Cairo agreement, and if the Syrian forces do not withdraw from Lebanon--three demands which cannot be slighted--what will be the fate of South Lebanon?

[Answer] What was the fate of Romania? and Czechoslovakia? What will be the fate of Poland, perhaps tomorrow? A big state eats up a small state in spite of the United Nations and the Security Council. If something unfortunate happened, I would not blame myself and say that I should have done such and so, I am doing these things to appease my own conscience, so that the day will not come when a member of my party, or someone from outside my party, will say to me, "You were sleeping, Raymond Iddih. You were in Europe. You fled. Therefore, Lebanon is gone!"

[Question] Why was the Lebanese army unable to play its part, in spite of all the attempts which were made?

[Answer] They spent 3 years saying, "Wait for the army." They opened the door to voluntary service and raised the military pay scale. They disagreed over the army law, but there must be something called an army. When the disturbances took place between the Phalangists and the Liberals in 'Anaya and the new church was destroyed, the matter developed into something more violent. I made as many contacts as I could to get army forces sent in, because in the view of some Lebanese the army was a Maronite army because the commander was a Maronite and the president of the republic, the commander-in-chief of the army, is a Maronite. The government should not have lost this opportunity to send the army into an area where the Maronites were fighting among themselves. The army could have stopped the fighting among the Maronites, and after that the authorities would have been able to send the army to al-Basta or anywhere else. But the army did not act. The most disgusting thing about all of this is that when the army was on the move, and before it reached the Kalb River, the Phalangists surrounded the Sarba barracks. The officers were afraid, and they were Maronites--Maronites afraid of Maronites. The Maronite army was afraid of Bashir al-Jumayyil's army. Bashir al-Jumayyil informed them that he had dispatched a small band to the mouth of the Kalb River, and told the Lebanese army not to go on. That day, I decided that the Lebanese army was finished. Today it has finally been finished off with the 'Ayn al-Rummanah incident. You ask me why? If I had been in parliament, I would not have allowed that to happen. I read that they had opened an investigation into the matter, and then I read the defense minister's statement that it would take a long time to question 1,000 soldiers. Later on I read that the commander of the army had been punished. I read that the army commander said, "The government has no right to punish soldiers, because according to army law it is the commander who punishes the soldiers and no one else." I have not read the new army law, but presumably the defense minister has to ask the army commander to impose punishments. The question which arises is. if the commander of the army deserves to be punished, does he impose this punishment on himself or does some higher authority do it? If there is nothing in the army law about this, one has to turn to the laws of other armies, such as the French, British and even the Italian army, to find out what ought to be done. In any case, the cabinet makes the

decision. In the past, I was happy when they talked about building up the army, and I said that maybe we will be delivered from the militias. Who but the army can deliver the country? Even if they tried again to rebuild the army and change its laws, and even if they changed the army commander, this army would be incapable of performing any military function, since it would not feel that its back was supported."

I repeat: the solution I am thinking of can be summed up as the formation of a European force, because the European countries have no designs on Lebanon. Either you rebuild your army from scratch, or else there will be no army. The army will be wiped out, just like the Social Affairs Ministry.

[Question] Inasmuch as the legitimate authorities are totally or partially unable to play their part, and since the experiment of rebuilding the army was unsuccessful, and since the Syrian deterrent forces are remaining in Lebanon until further notice, and since the Arab solution has failed, and since the international solution has also failed in spite of the international forces, where does Lebanon go from here?

[Answer] Since the superpowers do not want to protect us, and the Security Council in turn does not want to protect us, and since our "beloved motherland," as the Maronites say, has abdicated this role, then whither Lebanon? I answered you a while back. Let me repeat. Where did Czechoslovakia end up, a larger nation than Lebanon? Where did Romania end up, a nation larger than Lebanon? Where did Hungary end up, a country larger than Lebanon? What will happen to Poland, even though the Pope is Polish? What will happen to Lebanon is that it will disappear. How? It will be partitioned, and two administrative districts will be established. North of the Beirut-Damascus road there will be a Maronite state, which has already begun. South of the Damascus road, extending to the Litani, there will be a Palestinian state as far as al-Zahrani. This state will comprise the area between the two rivers. Israel may lay its hands on the area south of the Litani, and the people of the region--Shi'ites, some Sunnis and Christians--will perhaps be grateful, for they have become fed up with more than 5 years of war, the destruction of their homes, and the murder of their sons. What do we do? We will turn to Israel. We will become like the Arabs who collect wages and work in factories. Our destiny will become the same as the people's. Syria will take the Biqa', Tripoli and 'Akkar to make up for the Golan Heights.

[Question] Do you feel that there has been any change in the nature of Palestinian activity in Lebanon?

[Answer] The Palestinians? No. There are some Palestinians in the command who fear the establishment of a Palestinian state, because once this state is established they will start hanging one another. This one wants to be president of the republic (we know him; we know who will be president of the republic), and that one wants to be a minister. They will become like us, the difference being that they succeeded in creating an issue and sacrificed thousands of victims to do so. Today the intelligentsia has shifted from the Lebanese to the Palestinians. There are 80,000 educated, cultivated Palestinians, while we have become the merchants.

There is nothing wrong in this, but where is Lebanese culture? We are the ones who taught Arabic to the Arabs; we are the ones who are dispersed throughout America.

Today we are scattered throughout America, and there is not one university there, among all the universities where there are Lebanese, which does not have a Palestinian. The special role which we have played has been overturned. Some Palestinian leaders fear that the establishment of a Palestinian state will be the beginning of the end. I shall continue to repeat that Israel cannot exist or continue except by means of war, and in the shadow of war!

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BANKING PROGRESS IN 1980 CITED

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Jan 81 p 6

[Article: "Suwaya Appraises 1980 Banking Activity: Deposits Increase 30 Percent and Lending 18; Banks' Subscription to Treasury Bonds Reach Two Billion Pounds"]

[Text] The banking sector flourished during 1980. Deposits increased by 6 billion Lebanese pounds, i.e., 30 percent, compared with deposits at the end of 1979. This figure is still a positive indicator, despite the fact a part of it is the result of the inflated value of the American dollar, and despite the fact that the largest part of this money came from deposits in foreign currency.

Aside from deposits, lending to the private sector increased by 18 percent. It is expected that the banks' accumulative balance will rise by 30 percent.

Dr As'ad Suwaya, chairman of the Banks of Lebanon Association, presents an appraisal of the banking sector's progress for 1980, and makes some predictions for the new year: "During 1980, the Lebanese banking sector followed a course of growth and development, unparalleled by other sectors, since the events of 1975-76 ended. This growth was highlighted by rapid progress in areas of deposits, credits, accumulative balances, and private funds. It was also highlighted by continuation of expansion activities on both domestic and foreign levels.

The banking sector was unique in its remarkable growth during the years of difficult events, as a result of this sector's special nature and its being affected the least by security and political conditions. However, a large part of this growth was indeed real, stemming from the ability this sector has demonstrated in adapting to new circumstances and working in accordance with them, and from the capability which enables it to successfully manage the funds of resident and non-resident depositors. Perhaps that is a clear indication of the depositors' confidence in the banking system, whether through its management and services or through its expansion, in one form or another, in every principal capital of the world.

One can say objectively that the banks' work in the area of credit lending, especially to the private sector, was done under difficult and restrictive circumstances, in light of existing security and political conditions, accompanied by the disappearance of state authority and respect for law. We can almost say that credit in the production sectors was an act involving a certain amount of risk, even

though it was based on the foundation of the banking system, with the strength of the Lebanese economy and the vitality of businessmen who, in turn, could adapt to current conditions.

Indicators

Estimates for banking activity, at the end of 1980, clearly indicate the attainment of a new growth gap, which we can demonstrate through the following indicators:

1. Deposits. Through initial calculations done by the banking association, it is expected that total deposits in banks, by the end of 1980, will amount to 26 billion pounds, as compared with 20 billion at the end of 1979. This is an increase of 6 billion, or 30 percent.

Through the growth in size of deposits in previous years, we can note that the 1980 increase was relatively normal, since deposits at the end of 1977 had increased by 38 percent, 1978 by 17 percent and, at the end of 1979, by 33 percent.

2. Credit loans. It is expected that, by the end of 1980, bank credit will have increased between 17 and 18 percent, as compared with 1979. As of the end of last June, it had increased by about 2 billion, compared to the end of 1979, i.e., 10.3 percent.

Credit loans had increased 800 million by the end of 1977, about 11.2 percent; 2 billion at the end of 1978, about 25 percent; and 3 billion at the end of 1979, 30 percent. This limited increase in credit for 1980 stems from Bank of Lebanon directives which affected, because of liquidity and financial considerations, the limit on the size of credit loans. The purpose of that was to place a 25 percent "ceiling" on credit, which was increased in the middle of the year to 28 percent.

However, the Bank of Lebanon reconsidered and cancelled the ceiling, with respect to 1981, in the last part of November, after it became clear that the banks were spontaneously complying with its policy, and were bound by limits which were lower than the ceiling that it had applied.

It must be recorded here that the Bank of Lebanon's step confirms its flexibility and eagerness to retain the Lebanese banking structure, to preserve its characteristics free from constant restrictions.

Production Credit

Within the framework of discussing the size of credit, it should be pointed out that these credits went to various economic sectors, including industry, tourism and commerce, not to mention participation in certain infrastructure projects, such as the airport and superhighways.

According to Bank of Lebanon statistics, as of the end of last June, it was clear that credits granted as of that date, amounting to a billion, 334 million pounds, were distributed as follows: agriculture, 24 million; industry, 186 million; various types of commerce, 302 million; and miscellaneous credits, 214 million.

In our opinion, the distribution of credit remained the same at the end of the year. Reference should be made to the fact that the banks concluded five medium-term loans this year, varying from 5 to 10 years, on a joint basis and valued at 140 million pounds. Three of them were for tourism projects, one for an industrial project, and the other for a real estate project. Undoubtedly, the banking system's entering into the risk of these kinds of loans constitutes a basic step toward diversifying banking credit and creating the financial market in Lebanon.

As regards credit, we should point out that the 40 percent increase in the size of supported loans reflects the degree of bank financing for various import activities.

3. Within the framework of basic indicators of banking growth, we should also refer to the estimates at the end of this year suggesting a rise in total balances of the banks, by a 30 percent increase from the end of 1979. This is due to the rise of various assets in their possession.

4. One should also pause at the indicator of private funds in banks, which represents the amount of capital and the total of private funds. This indicator has risen from 878 million, at the end of 1979, to 998 million as of the end of June i.e., an increase of 120 million or 14 percent. It is expected that this percentage will rise by the end of the year.

When we discover that the total private funds rose from 496 million in 1974 to 620 million in 1977, to 683 million in 1978, and 878 million in 1979, we should understand the extent of the banks' initiative to increase their private capital, in conformity with the size of the increased deposits.

5. Branch Offices and Employees

Furthermore, 1980 saw the establishment of several new banks, as well as banks continuing to establish more branches in Beirut, the suburbs and other areas. This aids in making services more convenient for customers, opens vistas of new work for banks, and at the same time, develops a tendency to save among the citizenry.

The number of employees working in banking institutions increased by about 1000. Most of this increase in the work force was concentrated in national banks, in light of a policy of drawdown or non-expansion employed by some foreign banks.

Within the framework of this expansion, it is worthy of note that banking expansion continued abroad. Several banks were established in London, Paris, Geneva and Africa.

6. Treasury Bonds

One may also say that the banks continued to subscribe heavily in short-term treasury bonds during 1980, which the Ministry of Finance issues on the average of at least monthly. That is done to finance the treasury's deficit on the one hand, and to absorb surplus liquidity on the other. The subscription value amounted to about 2 billion pounds. In our opinion, the banks' role in this regard may

be enlarged, in terms of size and activeness, in the event the government was allowed to diversify issues in terms of time-periods, which would cause the masses of savers to subscribe to bonds, by allowing them to be liquidated at any time.

The Lebanese banking association has taken the initiative, by encouraging the Bank of Lebanon to establish the "Financial Company of Lebanon," whose mission is to deal in bonds and money certificates, in order to create a financial market in Lebanon. It is well-known that this company has completed its establishment process. The banks' subscription to its capital amounted to 10 million pounds, as a first stage. However, it was agreed to delay announcement of the company's establishment, until the law was promulgated abolishing the 10 percent tax on interest gained from these bonds, because we were convinced that that was a basic condition for the company's success.

We should, in this connection, mention that several nations, such as Britain and Canada, have given us technical assistance in this endeavor, including training the Lebanese "cadre" that will assume the company's tasks. In our estimate, the first half of 1981 will see the launching of this company, which will have a vital role in creating the cash market and in strengthening Lebanese savings capabilities.

Professional Training

Within the realm of accomplishments, we still should mention the association's continuing to attach to professional training and human qualification the importance which that area deserves. This year, 70 students were graduated from the Center for Banking Sciences, which is subordinate to the association. Moreover, in order to keep abreast of technical developments, the curriculum has been changed to 3 years' study for the first stage, and 2 years for the advanced training.

The association's efforts in this area are being joined by the participation of banks, individually, in specialized training courses, such as the one the Bank of Lebanon began to hold in 1980, in cooperation with City Bank.

In our view, training needs more of our efforts and capabilities, because Lebanon was and still is a source of trained skills which the Arab markets recruit.

1981 Predictions

These are the most prominent banking achievements of 1980. What are our predictions for the new year? We are optimistic that the banking sector will continue on a course of verticle and horizontal growth and development, surpassing all the difficulties which we hope will be overcome during the new year. We hope to get some relaxation on the political and security levels, because that would show positive reflection on banking activity and would give its energies new dimensions.

The reason that we are encouraged to be optimistic is that the banking system continues to ensure that its management is qualified, and to develop work methods in accordance with the most modern means used in the advanced countries. There is no greater proof of that than the tendency of the majority of banks toward increased mechanization, since the computer has begun to make inroads in a great number of banks.

In order to strengthen this tendency among banks, the association is considering steps which would complement this trend, strengthen the banks' ability to provide their services in a more complete way, and would consolidate their relations with financial markets abroad. Among these steps are:

1. Make available direct communications among banks, and with the central bank, in order to facilitate and expedite the communications that the banking business requires. This program is dependent upon completion of equipments currently being prepared in the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone.
2. Make available means of direct communication with banking systems in Europe and the United States, in order to facilitate financial operations and to meet available funds. This communication will be through the well-known "SWIFT" system.
3. Endeavor to use the advanced "MONITOR" system, in regard to acquiring world exchange rates immediately.
4. Pursue achievement of a security program in the banks, which is limited to the first phase, regarding the transportation of funds. This program has been achieved, but its implementation was postponed due to the governmental situation, which has prevailed recently."

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WHEAT SMUGGLING HARMS LEBANESE ECONOMY

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Jan 81 p 6

[Article by Bahij Abu Ghanem: "90,000 Ton Increase in Wheat Allotment; Treasury Loses 65.7 Million Pounds Annually"]

[Text] The 1981 wheat supply program has revealed an increase in domestic consumption estimates, upwards of 90,000 tons. The quantity noted in next year's program was 450,000 tons, as compared with 360,000 for this year, i.e., an increase of 25 percent.

It is clear that this increase cannot be justified as a natural annual consumption increase in a country like Lebanon, since the increase, which ought to be observed in this regard, should be very slight. A reasonable explanation is that quantities of wheat are "slipping" through the mills and are being sold as fodder for livestock, in addition to quantities of flour and meal intended for bread, which are slipping through the bakeries and flour distributors, and smuggled abroad.

The increase of smuggling activities in the mills, which it is said averages some 50 tons a day, upsets the minister of economy and trade, Khaled Junblat, who will chair a meeting next Friday, in order to study conditions in the automated mills. Members of a committee, tasked with studying the question of technical capacity, will attend. It was learned that the committee will submit a comprehensive report about this matter to the minister, after having obtained [information about] attempts at fraud, to which some of the mills resort.

It was learned from informed sources in the Ministry of Economy and Trade that operations to withdraw wheat from the granaries illegally will compel the ministry to circulate new tenders soon, bearing in mind that the latest deal, concluded this month, was supposed to supply domestic consumption needs for the entire current year, as well as to maintain a reserve sufficient for at least 2 months.

Additional Burden

If we take into account the cost of the last wheat deal, contracted for by the Office of Grains, and costing about 100 Lebanese piasters for one kilo, it becomes clear that the extent of the subsidy which the Treasury has decided to bear is almost 73 piasters per kilo, by virtue of the fact that a kilo is delivered to the mills at a cost of 27.5 piasters.

Therefore, it is clear that the increased consumption, anticipated for 1981, estimated at 90,000 tons, will cost the Treasury additional burdens amounting to 65,700,000 Lebanese pounds.

Added to these burdens are those caused by wasteful operations, which occur with respect to quantities destined for domestic consumption.

Cost of Bread

Accordingly, the bakery owners' unions are active on behalf of setting a new price for bread, taking into account the increase which has occurred in the components of the price in recent years. They want to arrive, along with the Ministry of Economy, at a calculation of the price that would be closer to what the actual costs may be.

The unions have begun an initiative in this direction, aimed at obtaining the backing of workers' federations that automatically support the wheat price subsidy, because of well-known considerations.

Disregarding the reasonableness or unreasonableness of setting a new tariff for bread, in light of the additional costs, it ought to be pointed out that the ratio of the cost of flour to the total cost of a loaf of bread has decreased from about 40 to 20 percent. The reason for this, according to the bakers' estimations, is that the workers' wages constitute 40 percent, along with increased ratios for fuel, sugar, yeast, general expenses, etc.

Therefore, it can be said that it has become necessary to review the flour subsidy itself, so long as it only constitutes 20 percent of the total cost of bread.

Holy of Holies

Numerous factors affect the Ministry of Economy and Trade: the graft and smuggling operations which occur in the bread-bakery sector, and even in the distribution-bakery sector, about which officials in the Ministry of Economy and Trade are aware; the inability of control organizations to curb the slippage, aside from the speculative activities, in proportion to authorized withdrawals; and, additionally, the increased deficit in the general budget, which has become an inflationary factor. All of this confuses the agencies concerned in the Ministry of Economy and Trade for two reasons:

1. The ministry's conviction, and consequently the government's, that graft exists and that the subsidy has diverged from the purpose for which it was created.
2. A fear of popular reactions, governed by purely emotional slogans.

However, the new government, which assumed its duties 2 weeks ago, intends to study this matter objectively and comprehensively, taking into account the benefits and dangers of the subsidy and balancing out the differences.

In light of the present situation, it is feared that the citizenry would gain an "illusory" subsidy, because in exchange for that price for a loaf of bread, they would pay double in other consumer categories. It is also afraid to change the subsidy policy which for years has been called an untouchable "holy of holies."

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LIBYA

BRIEFS

QADHDHAFI'S TANKS--According to the French military, 6,000 Libyan soldiers are probably in Chad now. None of the latest T-72 tanks delivered in recent months to Tripoli has, however, yet crossed over into Chadian territory. [Text] [Paris LE POINT in French 26 Jan 81 p 38]

AGREEMENT WITH SEYCHELLES--Colonel Qadhdhafi is pushing into the Indian Ocean. He has just signed an important trade and military aid agreement with the Seychelles Republic. Nearly 120,000 dollars have been made available by Qadhdhafi to equip the Seychelles armed forces. [Text] [Paris LE POINT in French 2 Feb 81 p 46]

CSO: 4800

MOROCCAN DIPLOMAT PRESENTS VIEWS ON POLISARIO

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Jan 81 p 4

[Text]

This refers to the article 'Polisario at the end of its Military tether' by Ian Black (The Muslim, Jan. 11).

For the benefit of our brother Pakistani readers, I may be permitted to set the record straight.

The case of the so-called 'Polisario' is certainly the most typical example of audacious and unscrupulous mystification in the international arena at a time when it is fraught, more than ever before, with all kinds of imposters - notably because of the increasing role of the media and the ease with which they can be manipulated - such a mystification which can be hatched today by any 'Special Services' equipped with a profusion of ways and means for staging spectacles that would be the envy of the most imaginative and most extravagant movie producers.

This strange 'liberation movement' (which was baptised by the colonial power itself!) was born, through the conjugated efforts of the Spanish colonial administration, Algeria and Mauritania, at a time when the final decolonisation process had already begun. It was designed to try and prevent Morocco from recovering its Atlantic Saharan Provinces, and was the product of a thinly-disguised policy to oppose the completion of Morocco's national unity and territorial integrity.

Created out of nothing on the territory of a State neighbouring on Morocco, the so-called Polisario is, now, equipped with arms and supplied with funds and mercenaries by Algeria which gave birth to it, and by Libya which has taken over as its wet nurse, with the only aim of serving as a mask for charac-

terised aggression and tenacious subversion.

Algeria was, so to say, caught red-handed with its regular armed forces at the Battle of Amgala in February 1976 (when, as it is well known, over a hundred Algerian officers and soldiers were taken prisoner). Algeria, of course, would not want to admit that. As for Libya, everyone knows it is deliberately and obstinately engaged in a large-scale enterprise of subversion and, despite repeated setbacks in the 1970's, it evidently could not bring itself to pull out of the game, in Morocco or anywhere else, considering its really fierce spirit of competition in the race for hegemony over the region.

In fact, to consolidate their designs of hegemony in the region, Algeria and, soon afterwards, Libya have employed unlimited propaganda and enormous financial resources to get their choices "recognised" by a few States whose "revolutionary fervour" was flattered, whose good faith was abused, or whose complaisance was acquired simply by means of petrodollars, oil or gas, or else with all kinds of terrorist threats and pressures. In short, nothing was spared to obtain from poverty-stricken, deceived, intimidated or blindly partisan States a hasty recognition based on a dossier of which they knew nothing and which was presented to them in a simplistic and fallacious way: the procedure unfortunately vindicates the saying that the best liars are those who come from afar.

To make their enterprise more credible, Algeria and Libya have enlisted for their cause a few

individuals looking for fame, however ephemeral it may be. These people are thrusters and opportunists from Mauritania, Algeria, and Mali and some even from Morocco, people who, being near the region, had closely followed the manoeuvres of rapprochement, at a critical point of the decolonisation process, between the Franco regime in Spain and the Algerian military security. They seized the first opportunity they found to profit by the warmth of international palaces in Algiers and luxurious villas placed at their disposal, like the cinema stars of a fabulous cast, so as to interest them and make it easier to mobilise them in the scenario written by their promoters.

To better appreciate the quality of this cast of actors, it is worth reviewing the most notable names on the list of credits for this rather special type of show:

1) Brahim Hakim, alias Brahim Ben Sheikh Ben Derwish, 'Minister of Foreign Affairs' of the so-called SADR, who is a Mauritanian national:

- Born in Mauritania, who was once a Male nurse and an insurance agent in Mouakchott, Attache at the Embassy of the Mauritanian Islamic Republic in Algiers,

- An Agent of Algerian Security Services since 1975.

2) Mahfoud Laroussi, alias Ali Azergui, so-called "Minister of the Interior", is also a Mauritanian national whose parents are natives of the Algerian Sahara. They use

to trade between Tindouf and Mauritania.

3) M'Hamed Ould Ziou, alias Boula Ould M'Hamed Ould Ahmed Zein, so-called "Minister of Justice", is a Mauritanian national born at Bir Moghrein in Mauritania.

4) Aini Sayed, "Minister Counsellor at the Presidency", whose real name is Mohammad Laghdaf Ben Sidati - born in Taroudant in the Agadir area.

5) Ouadadi Ahmed Hiba, "Red Crescent Representative".

- Born in Tan Tan and a native of this province. His brother Taki-Ou Allah Ma-Ou El Ainin is a member of the Moroccan Parliament.

6) Bachir Mustapha Sayed, "Polisario Assistant Secretary-General", a native of Tan Tan where he was born.

7) Mahfoud Ben Ali Beiba, "Vice-Premier", a native of Tan Tan.

8) Allali Mohamed Iadel, "Radio Tindouf Official", a native of Goulmine.

9) Moussa Khadadi, alias Mahmoud Abdelfatah, "European Representative", a Mauritanian who studied in Algiers.

10) Franco Mohamed Salem Ould Saleh, "Information Minister", a native of Tarfaya.

11) Mohamed Abdelaziz, "Polisario Secretary-General", an Algerian of the Shaamba Tribe.

12) Mohamed Lamine Ouled Ahmed, whose real name is Lili Mahmoud, "Prime Minister", a native of Tan Tan.

13) El Aadmi Mohamed Ali, alias Aomar Hadrani, "Ideologist" and liaison agent with the Algerian F.L.N. Headquarters, born in Goulmine.

14) Ahmed Baba Miske, "Polisario Spokesman", a Mauritanian national and the former Mauritanian permanent representative at the United Nations.

Having put the facade of the "Liberation Movement" in place, Algeria and Libya called upon local and international mercenaries to pad out the ranks of their creature. Instructors from Algeria or allied countries, thus, devoted themselves, without bothering to hide the fact, to the training of these composite troops comprising natives of the region around the great Sahara and even people foreign to the region. The statements made by elements taken prisoner at Gafsa in Southern Tunisia corroborate this fact eloquently.

In the presence of representatives of the world Press, these prisoners declared that they had been trained in Libyan camps, along with other

elements from Arab and African countries, for the only purpose of going into action wherever and whenever necessary. Once their indoctrination and training was accomplished, subversion was the principal objective of all the operations conducted by these mercenaries. In this way, the latter took part in attacks perpetrated against Moroccan territory.

With the persistent aim of threatening not only Morocco's territorial integrity but also its political independence, this meticulously laid plot took shape and its proportions gradually appeared sharply in the light of events.

This, then, is the rabble that operates today under the "Polisario" label.

To better explain it, this small group did not even exist when the International Court of Justice was examining the "Western Sahara" issue. It never combated the Spanish coloniser, and for a good reason, since the Spanish colonial administration was one of its first godfathers. It is, either at the level of its "rank" or at that of its "file", composed, quasi-totally, of individuals which do not originate from the territory, formerly under Spanish domination, decolonised in 1976. It was only when the territory had been liberated that it sought to harass isolated centres to create a psychosis and a sense of insecurity favouring the pretensions of those who had created it.

Carrying out their destabilisation plans, the Algerian strategists preferred, in a first phase, to launch their hodgepodge horde against Mauritania, with the intention of breaking the entente finally established between it and Morocco, when Mauritanian leaders understood they had fallen into a trap and what grave threats were lurking against their national independence.

Mauritania suffered murderous raids by the "Polisario" which also distinguished itself with ignoble racist behaviour stigmatised many times by President Senghor of Senegal, for, the mercenaries in the pay of Algiers and Tripoli systematically massacred Mauritanian Blacks and spared the Whites.

Having almost attained its objectives in Mauritania, all the effort of the war which dares not reveal its real nature, was then diverted towards Morocco, in defiance of Maghrebine fraternity, and without any consideration for the authentic interests and common destiny of the peoples of the Maghreb.

The designs of hegemony and expansionism, that have inspired this underhand planned policy of recourse to force in all forms, no

longer need demonstrating. It is quite obvious that the co-ordination of military action and a flood of diplomatic activity with a view to isolating and amputating Morocco is not designed only to threaten Morocco but also to reduce it to inaction in order to be able to carry destabilisation to other parts of Africa or to supply, and most quietly, take them over.

From now on, no state of the African continent is immune from such actions. Yesterday it was Chad and Tunisia, today is Morocco. Tomorrow perhaps it will be Mali, Senegal, Niger or, once again, Uganda.

The defence of great principles accepted by all - and no one really has any illusions about - is only a smokescreen for the masterplan for subversion and penetration whose outlines are beginning to appear clearly throughout the region.

Far from wanting to confine their actions to the Saharan territories formerly under Spanish domination and returned to their homeland (where, moreover, they cannot count on the support of the local population to implant their mercenaries), Algeria and Libya, through their proxy, the "Polisario", are now attacking sub-Saharan areas of south-west Morocco. Their "movement" even declares that it has precise designs on all of south Morocco. And why should they stop even there?

This subversive and destabilising action has had and inevitably will have repercussions in all neighbouring countries both north and south of the Sahara. The attack of southern Tunisia and the threats brandished by these "Liberation Movements", which are swarming in their Tripoli and Algiers factories, will end up by igniting the whole region if one is not careful. Sinning against truth and against the national unity and fraternity of the Maghrebine peoples, and of the African peoples in general, those who have given birth to this aberration with the name of "Polisario" and other "movements" tarred with the same brush, or those who encourage them, thoughtlessly or complacently will surely, sooner or later, be themselves among their victims. One is punished by one's own sins. Furthermore, a lie, however elaborate it might be, bears always in itself (as historical experience has amply shown) its own defeat and a masquerade ends up always with unmasking. It is true. - ABDEL KARIM SEMMAR, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Morocco, Islamabad.

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